

Acute Seizure and Status Epilepticus

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Status Epilepticus: Definitions

1981 (ILAE, Gastaut, Roger, Lob, 1967)

...whenever a seizure persists for a sufficient length of time or is repeated frequently enough that recovery between attacks does not occur.

Duration necessary

....30 minutes (1970-), 20/10 min (1983-), 5 minutes ?

Pathophysiology of tonic-clonic SE – progressive changes

Biphasic pattern of physiological change

- *Switch from compensated → decompensated state = 30-120 minutes in convulsive SE (an approximation, dependant on site, nature, severity of the SE)*

Window of opportunity for treatment

- *Risk of cerebral damage increases with time after 30-120 mins – ‘time is brain’*
- *Treatment failure increases with time*



Key points in emergency drug treatment of seizures

- *Drug treatment needed only for long convulsive seizures (>5 mins or longer than the habitual seizure for any individual), or where seizures are likely to be repetitive or expected consequence of repeated seizures is serious*
- *Drugs needed which act RAPIDLY – so conventional oral therapy or intramuscular therapy ineffective*

Electroclinical Classification of SE in Practice: Overall Prognosis

Severity

