Yukon-Kuskokwim HEALTH CORPORATION

Clinical Guideline

Status Epilepticus Treatment (Adult)

Definitions

- **This guideline is indicated for the emergent treatment of convulsive status epilepticus.**
- For atypical seizure-like presentations without evidence of impending hemodynamic instability, consult Neurology on call at ANMC or PAMC.
- Convulsive status epilepticus:
  - Seizure that lasts >5 minutes or occurs multiple times without regaining consciousness.
  - Diffuse, often tonic-clonic motor activity AND loss of consciousness.

Adult patient with seizure.

- ABCs and neurologic exam.
- **Bedside glucose STAT.**
- Obtain PIV x 2, continuous SpO_2, & cardiac monitor.
- Ensure BVM and suction at bedside.
- If possible, obtain labs (see box).
- Get AMPLE history.

After five minutes of seizure activity, patient meets criteria for treatment of convulsive status epilepticus (see Definitions box).

Village Management

See Emergency RMT Seizure Scenario on the wiki.

- ABCs. Prepare BVM and suction.
- Place patient on floor with space around.
- **Bedside glucose STAT.** If unable to get a glucose measurement, give glucose buccally.
- Follow flow for no IV in place.
- Discuss with E1/E2 and activate medevac.
- If seizure resolves, place patient in recovery position.

If IV access unsuccessful, begin treatment with "No IV" pathway while continuing to attempt access and/or placing IO.

Labwork

Labs: BMP, Mg, Phos, CBC, lactate, EtOH, UDS, U/A, hCG. If concern for infection, send blood cultures and pro-calcitonin. Consider CK to trend over time.

IV in place

- Lorazepam 0.1 mg/kg IV @ 2 mg/min
  AND
- Levetiracetam 60 mg/kg IV (max 4500 mg). Give over 15 minutes.

Seizure continues 5 more minutes after lorazepam given.

- Lorazepam 0.1 mg/kg IV @ 2 mg/min.
- Prepare for intubation.

Seizure continues 5 more minutes.

Fosphenytoin 20 mg PE/kg IV (max 1500 mg). Give over 10 minutes. If seizure continues, give additional 10 mg PE/kg IV over 5-10 minutes.

- Contact ICU and activate medevac.
- **Intubate** patient.
  - Induction (choose ONE): Propofol 2 mg/kg OR midazolam 0.2 mg/kg.
  - Paralysis: Rocuronium 0.6 mg/kg (preferred over succinylcholine due to risk of rhabdomyolysis and hyperkalemia, but recommend this lower dose)
  - Consider sugammadex following intubation to avoid masking seizure activity. Discuss with intensivist.
- Be prepared to give vasopressors or push-dose epinephrine if needed.

Choose ONE:
- Propofol drip 20 mcg/kg/min, titrate to effect with goal 50-80 mcg/kg/min. Watch BP closely.
- Midazolam drip 0.1 mg/kg/hr gtt, titrate to effect

- Discuss further management with ICU.
- Prepare for medevac.
- Continue active management until patient leaves, including continuous VS, frequent labs, and monitoring of UOP.

No IV in place

Benzodiazepine (choose ONE):
- Midazolam 0.2 mg/kg IM (max dose 10 mg) x1.
- Diazepam 0.2 mg/kg (max 20 mg) PR x1.
- Diastat home dose x1.

AND
- Levetiracetam 60 mg/kg (max 4500 mg) PO (if able) or PR. To give PR, give tablets as well as one packet of water-soluble lubricant.

Seizure continues 20 more minutes.

- Activate medevac if in village.
- Fosphenytoin 20 mg PE/kg IM (max 1500 mg).

Seizure continues 20 more minutes.

Repeat benzodiazepine dose.

Seizure continues 20 more minutes.

Phenobarbital 20 mg/kg IM (max 1000 mg).

Treatments for Provoked Seizures

- Hypoglycemia: Dextrose 50% IV. Give 25 grams IV push.
- Hyponatremia: Sodium chloride 3% 100 mL infusion over 10 minutes.
- Hypocalcemia: Calcium gluconate 1-2 gram IV push.
- Eclampsia: Magnesium sulfate 4-6 grams IV over 20 minutes followed by 1-2 gram/hour.
- Alcohol withdrawal: Phenobarbital 260 mg IV push followed by 130 mg Q30-60 minutes.

Post Seizure Care

- Seizure recurrence typically occurs within 2-6 hours.
- If history of seizures, may discharge with responsible adult if patient is improving. If first-time seizure, monitor in ED or clinic until mentation is at baseline. No air travel until >6 hours from event.
- Consider admission for prolonged post-ictal state or if concern for persistent metabolic abnormalities.
- Place urgent referral to Neurology if first-time seizure without known cause. Consult Neurology if considering urgent neurologic evaluation or medication initiation or adjustment.

Notes

- If seizure occurs in outpatient clinic, place patient on floor with space around and call a Rapid Response.
- Avoid using lorazepam IM due to erratic absorption.
- Avoid mixing different benzodiazepines.
- Monitor CK and renal function. Patient may require aggressive IV fluid administration if risk for rhabdomyolysis.
- Obtain neuroimaging if any focal abnormalities on neuro exam.
- Perform LP if unable to exclude intracranial infection. (Perform CT prior to LP.)

This guideline is designed for the general use of most patients but may need to be adapted to meet the special needs of a specific patient as determined by the medical practitioner.
Approved by Clinical Guideline Committee 5/28/24. Click here to see the supplemental resources for this guideline.
If comments about this guideline, please contact Megan_Young@ykhc.org.