

Protocol for management of status epilepticus in General Practice in adults

Status epilepticus is a life threatening medical emergency.

Emergency treatment of suspected status epilepticus should be started immediately. If a single seizure or serial seizures last more than 5 minutes, emergency treatment should be started.

In some patients, epilepsy is so severe that status epilepticus is likely to be frequent. These patients may have specific protocols for carers/medical professionals to manage these episodes and avoid unnecessary hospital admission.

If the patient does not have a protocol available:

Immediately:

Contact emergency ambulance for immediate hospital transfer. At the same time:

- Secure airway
- Give oxygen if available
- Assess cardiac and respiratory function
- Secure IV access and fluid resuscitate if necessary
- If hypoglycaemia is suspected – give 50ml 50% glucose immediately

Initial treatment:

Administer benzodiazepine either as:

- *Epistatus (Midazolam) 10mg buccally (or intranasally if buccal administration is not possible) or
- Diazepam 10mg PR if Epistatus (Midazolam) is unavailable

Dose can be repeated after 5 minutes if no response.

*An online tutorial is available on the administration of midazolam for medical and nursing staff. It is available on the NHS Tayside intranet at:

http://eds.tayside.scot.nhs.uk//NHSTaysideDocs/groups/neurology/documents/documents/prod_239990.mov

or

<http://tinyurl.com/oneap72>