

Seizures and Syncope

1. Your patient presents supine on the floor with full-body convulsions. He is most likely experiencing which of the following types of seizure?
 - a. absence
 - b. simple partial
 - c. complex partial
 - d. grand mal

2. Your patient presents with grand mal seizure activity. You note that his jaw is clenched, there is vomit in his airway, and he is breathing rapidly with a shallow tidal volume. You should:
 - a. suction his airway with a rigid tip catheter.
 - b. place him in the recovery position.
 - c. assist his ventilations with a BVM.
 - d. suction his airway with a soft tip catheter.

3. Your patient presents with tonic-clonic seizure activity. Bystanders report that the patient initially seized for about 10 minutes, stopped for about 2 minutes, then started seizing again without regaining consciousness. This is most suggestive of:
 - a. increased intracranial pressure.
 - b. status epilepticus.
 - c. a complex seizure.
 - d. noncompliance with medications.

4. Your patient presents lying on a living room floor with tonic-clonic seizure activity. You should:
 - a. physically restrain him.
 - b. clear the area of any hazards.
 - c. insert a nasopharyngeal airway.
 - d. obtain a past medical history from a bystander.

5. Your patient presents conscious though unresponsive to verbal stimuli. You note that he is rolling his fingers repeatedly and is unable to follow commands. He is most likely experiencing which of the following types of seizure?
 - a. absence

- b. simple partial
 - c. complex partial
 - d. grand mal
6. A patient presents in status epilepticus. The immediate threat to life is:
- a. hypoxia.
 - b. increased intracranial pressure.
 - c. hyperventilation.
 - d. myocardial infarction.
7. Your patient presents conscious and alert complaining of an uncontrollable jerking of his left arm. He is most likely experiencing which of the following types of seizure?
- a. absence
 - b. simple partial
 - c. complex partial
 - d. grand mal
8. A syncopal episode is most likely to occur when the patient is in which position?
- a. supine
 - b. kneeling
 - c. sitting
 - d. standing
9. Generalized seizures involve:
- a. the brainstem and pons.
 - b. the cerebrum and cerebellum.
 - c. all areas of the brain.
 - d. both cerebral hemispheres.
10. Seizures are the direct result of:
- a. decreased impulse conduction.
 - b. electrolyte disturbances.
 - c. abnormal electrical activity in the brain.
 - d. derangements in acid-base balance.

11. Which of the following correctly lists the series of events in a generalized tonic-clonic seizure?
- a. unconsciousness, clonic phase, tonic phase, alert and oriented
 - b. unconsciousness, tonic phase, clonic phase, postictal state
 - c. aura, clonic phase, tonic phase, postictal state
 - d. clonic phase, hypertonic phase, tonic phase, unconsciousness
12. Which of the following signs is **most** likely to be present during the postictal phase of a seizure?
- a. bilateral pupil dilation
 - b. bradycardia
 - c. dry, warm skin.
 - d. peripheral cyanosis.
13. You arrive on scene and find a patient having a grand mal seizure in a cluttered living room. Bystanders have placed a bite block in her mouth. You should:
- a. remove hazards from the area.
 - b. administer oxygen.
 - c. remove the bite block.
 - d. place her in the recovery position.
14. While evaluating your patient, you note that he suddenly stops talking and is staring off, blankly. You say his name, but he does not respond. After about 10 seconds, the situation resolves, and he is talking with you as if nothing happened. He has most likely experienced which of the following types of seizure?
- a. absence
 - b. simple partial
 - c. complex partial
 - d. grand mal
15. Syncope most often occurs secondary to:
- a. a temporary lack of blood flow to the brain.
 - b. increased intracranial pressure.
 - c. a heart attack or stroke.
 - d. medication overdose.

16. Your patient has been experiencing full tonic-clonic seizure activity for 10 minutes. This is best described as:
- a. a partial complex seizure.
 - b. status epilepticus.
 - c. a generalized motor seizure.
 - d. a postictal state.
17. The hypertonic phase of a grand mal seizure is characterized by:
- a. violent and jerky seizure activity.
 - b. mental status that improves over time.
 - c. contracted and tense muscles.
 - d. hyperextension of the back.
18. A patient who has experienced a syncopal episode will most often:
- a. experience a postictal-like period afterward.
 - b. remain unconscious for a long period of time.
 - c. quickly regain consciousness after being positioned supine.
 - d. present with tachycardia and hypertension.
19. Your patient presents in a grand mal seizure with rapid, shallow, and snoring respirations. You should:
- a. perform a head-tilt chin-lift.
 - b. insert an oropharyngeal airway.
 - c. insert a nasopharyngeal airway.
 - d. assist ventilations with a BVM.
20. All of the following are medications taken by patients to treat epilepsy *except*:
- a. Dilantin.
 - b. phenobarbital.
 - c. tegretol.
 - d. metoprolol.

21. You are assessing a patient with an altered mental status who you believe is postictal. Which of the following would most suggest that the patient had a seizure?
- a. blood draining from the ear canal
 - b. bilateral pinpoint (2mm) pupils
 - c. bowel and bladder incontinence
 - d. bradycardia and hypotension
22. Your patient presents supine on the ground conscious, alert, and oriented x 4. Bystanders state that he suddenly became dizzy, then started to lose consciousness. They caught him, laid him supine on the ground, and he regained consciousness about 10 seconds later. He was immediately alert and oriented. Which of the following most likely occurred?
- a. syncopal episode
 - b. absence seizure
 - c. petit mal seizure
 - d. simple partial seizure

Answer Key

1. D
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. B
8. D
9. D
10. C
11. B
12. A
13. C
14. A
15. A
16. B
17. D
18. C
19. C
20. D
21. C
22. A