First Aid for Seizures

It is most important to protect a person from harm during a seizure. Here are some tips:

### What to do during a Generalized Tonic Clonic Seizure (Grand Mal Seizure)
- ✓ Stay calm and keep track of time.
- ✓ Look for medical identification.
- ✓ Protect from nearby hazards.
- ✓ Loosen any tight clothing, like tie or collar.
- ✓ Cushion head to protect from injury.
- ✓ Turn on side to keep airway clear unless injury exists. Reassure as consciousness returns.
- ✓ If single seizure lasted less than 5 minutes, ask if hospital evaluation wanted.
- ✓ If multiple seizures, or if one seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes, call an ambulance.
- ✓ Stay with person until he/she regains consciousness.

### What NOT to do during a seizure
- ✗ Do NOT put anything in a person’s mouth during a seizure. This could injure their jaw and gums or break their teeth.
- ✗ Do NOT hold them down or restrain them.
- ✗ Do NOT attempt to give them oral medication or anything to drink during a seizures.
- ✗ Do NOT try to “shake the person out of it”.

### What to do during a Complex Partial (Psychomotor or Temporal Lobe Seizure)
- ✓ Speak calmly and reassuringly to person having the seizure and to others around them.
- ✓ Guide gently away from obvious hazards.
- ✓ Stay with person until completely aware of environment.
- ✓ Offer to help afterwards, including helping them to get home.

### What to do during Myoclonic Seizures
- ✓ No first aid is needed, but the person should be given a thorough medical evaluation.

### When is a Seizure an Emergency?
- ✓ First time seizure (no known history of seizures).
- ✓ Convulsive seizure lasts more than 5 minutes.
- ✓ Person is having repeated seizures without regaining consciousness.
- ✓ There has been a change in frequency or type of seizure activity.
- ✓ Person is injured, has diabetes or is pregnant.
- ✓ Normal breathing doesn’t resume.
- ✓ Seizure occurs in water.