

Understanding Seizure Clusters

Anup D. Patel, MD

Anup Patel, MD

- Section Chief of Neurology at Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Associate Professor of Neurology and Clinical Pediatrics at the Ohio State University College of Medicine

Disclosures

- Webinar development for Medscape and Neurology Live
- Research funding from NIH and Pediatric Epilepsy Research Foundation

Definition

- Set of seizures occurring in close proximity
- Variations of how definition implemented exists
- May be unique for patients
- Therefore, hard to standardize in studies, for seizure action plans, etc.
- Gap in communication between patient/caregiver and provider
- Can be referred to as acute repetitive seizures

Impact

- Surveys of patients and caregivers
- Negative impact:
 - Quality of life
 - Emotional wellbeing
 - Daily function
 - Productivity of the patients and their caregivers
- Increase ED utilization
- Can lead to status epilepticus

Seizure Cluster Unknowns

- Due to variability of definition
 - Prevalence hard to characterize
 - Predict who is at risk is not well known
- Those with treatment resistant epilepsy appears highest risk
- Difficult to quantify and record for caregivers/observers
- Therefore, difficult to know when to give rescue medication

Epilepsy Foundation

- Seizures of any type may occur in groups or clusters over a number of hours or days
- A person usually recovers between seizures and the clusters will end on their own
- If a person can recognize seizure clusters or acute repetitive seizures easily enough, they can often be treated outside of a hospital setting

Rescue Medications

- FACT: FDA approval is for seizure clusters
- MYTH: FDA approved for prolonged seizures or status epilepticus

Thank you!

