Adult Seizure

A seizure is when the body shakes uncontrollably (*convulsion*). It can be a scary experience. A seizure is not a diagnosis. It is a sign that something else may be wrong with brain and/or spinal cord (*central nervous system*).

In the Emergency Department, your condition is evaluated. The seizure is then treated. You will likely need follow-up with your caregiver. You will possibly need further testing and evaluation. Your caregiver or the specialist to whom you are referred will determine if further treatment is needed.

After a seizure, you may be confused, dazed and drowsy. These problems (*symptoms*) often follow a seizure. Medication given to treat the seizure may also cause some of these changes. This pause is a *refractory period.* Because of this, hospital admission is seldom required unless there are other conditions present such as trauma or metabolic problems.

Sometimes the seizure activity follows a fainting episode. This may have been caused by a brief drop in blood pressure. These fainting (*syncopal*) seizures are generally not a cause for concern.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Follow up with your caregiver as suggested.
- **If any problems happen, get help right away.**
- **Do not** swim or drive until your caregiver says it is okay.

Document Released: 12/15/2001 Document Re-Released: 09/26/2009
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.