



# Module 1

Seizures

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## Altered Level of Consciousness (ALOC)

Altered level of consciousness (ALOC) means that you are not as coherent, alert, or able to understand or react as you are normally. ALOC can be caused by a head injury, medicines, alcohol or drugs, dehydration, or some diseases, such as diabetes.



# Assessment Acronym: A.E.I.O.U.T.I.P.S



<b>A. – Alcohol</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask patient if they have been drinking alcohol and utilize sense of smell to detect possible alcohol on patient</li> </ul>
<b>E. – Epilepsy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask patient if they suffer from epilepsy or routine seizures</li> <li>• If patient is unconscious check neck and wrists for medical alert tags indicating epilepsy</li> </ul>
<b>I. – Insulin</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask patient if they suffer from diabetes</li> <li>• If patient is unconscious check neck and wrists for medical alert tags indicating diabetes</li> </ul>
<b>O. – Overdose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask patient if they have consumed illicit, prescribed, or over the counter drugs</li> <li>• Ask patient if they have over consumed prescribed or over the counter drugs</li> <li>• Access patient’s pupils to be equal and reactive to light</li> <li>• Visualize patients antecubital (anterior elbow) for track marks (needle marks)</li> <li>• If patient is unconscious, search for pill bottles, containers, on person/possessions</li> </ul>
<b>U. – Underdose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask patient if they have been compliant (consistent with past behavior) with illicit, prescribed, or over the counter drugs</li> <li>• Ask patient if they have under consumed prescribed or over the counter drugs</li> <li>• Access patient’s pupils to be equal and reactive to light</li> <li>• Visualize patients antecubital (anterior elbow) for track marks (needle marks)</li> <li>• If patient is unconscious, search for pill bottles, containers, on person/possessions</li> </ul>
<b>T. – Trauma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask patient if they have experienced any recent trauma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Slips, Trips, Falls</li> <li>○ Car accidents</li> <li>○ Wellness or workout routines</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Perform quick head to toe assessment. If patient is unconscious, consent is implied</li> </ul>
<b>I. – Infection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palpate forehead with back of gloved hand to assess body temperature</li> <li>• Utilize thermometer to assess body temperature</li> <li>• Assess skin signs (red or mottled skin)</li> <li>• Ask if patient has had a fever or chills</li> <li>• Ask if patient has had a recent surgery</li> </ul>
<b>P. – Psychogenic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask patient if they have been diagnosed with any behavioral conditions (Depression, Schizophrenia, Bi-Polar)</li> <li>• Check medical alert tags</li> </ul>
<b>S. – Stroke</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cincinnati stroke scale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Speech – Ask patient to repeat “The sky is blue over California”</li> <li>○ Facial Droop – Instruct patient to smile</li> <li>○ Upper extremities – Have patient squeeze your hands with both of their hands to test equal grip strength</li> <li>○ Arm drift – Have patient close eyes and extend arms straight out with palms facing ceiling</li> <li>○ Lower extremities – Have patient sit in chair and ask patient to flex both feet toward ceiling while applying resistance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Seizure

A seizure is a sudden, uncontrolled electrical disturbance in the brain. It can cause changes in behavior, movements, or feelings, an in levels of consciousness.

1. Stay calm and begin timing seizure. Call 911 and Public Safety (650-738-7000)
2. Keep the person safe
  - a) If necessary, ease the person to the floor.
  - b) Don PPE (gloves and eye protection) if available
  - c) Have a fellow employee or student clear-out onlookers to protect the patient's privacy. Public Safety shall assist in this endeavor if needed
  - d) Turn the person gently onto one side, facing away from you. This will help prevent the patient from aspirating (inhaling vomit into the airway) if vomiting occurs.
  - e) Clear the area around the person of anything hard or sharp. This can prevent injury.
  - f) Put something soft and flat, like a folded jacket, under his or her head.
  - g) Remove eyeglasses.
  - h) Check for medical alert tags around the patient's neck and wrists.
3. Stay with the person until first responders arrive on scene and have assumed patient care. After the seizure ends, make note of seizure duration. Patient may be postictal for some time (The postictal phase refers to the period of time immediately following a seizure. (The postictal phase can last for seconds, minutes, hours, and sometimes even days. It is commonly thought of as the time during which the brain recovers from a seizure.) Once patient is alert and able to communicate, tell them what happened in very simple terms. Comfort the person and speak calmly. Keep yourself and other people calm



# Seizure Response Plan

*Do & Don't*



*Keep other people out*



*Clear Dangerous Objects*



*Time the Seizure*



*Cushion Head*



*Roll the Patient onto their left side*



*Stay & Reassure*



*Call for Medical Help*



*Regaining Consciousness*



*Do Not Panic*



*Do Not Restrain Movements*



*Do Not Put Anything in Mouth*

# What Can Cause a Seizure?

Head Trauma

Metabolic,  
hepatic or renal  
failure

Tumor

Hypoxia (low  
oxygen)

Drugs or  
medication  
non-compliance

Electrolyte  
abnormality

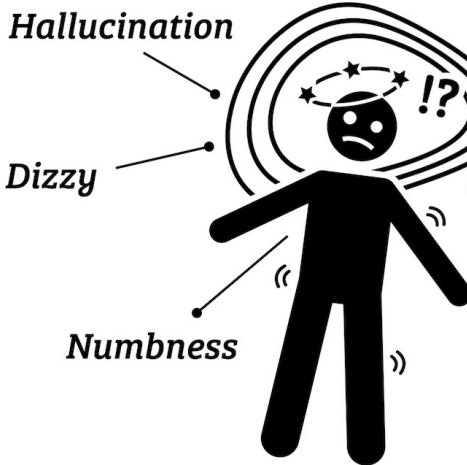
Stroke

Eclampsia

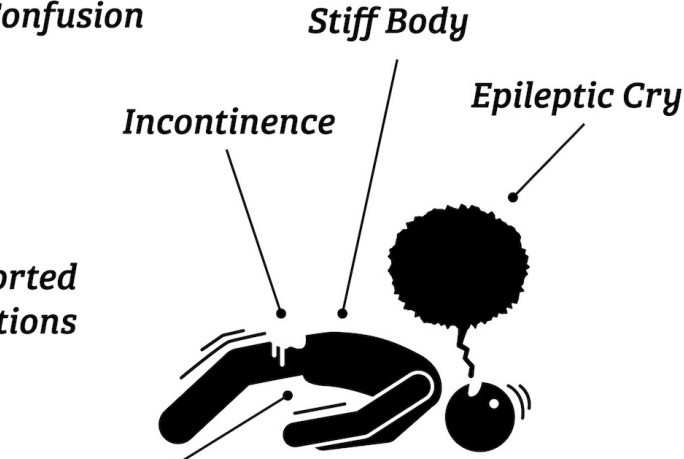
Alcohol  
withdrawal



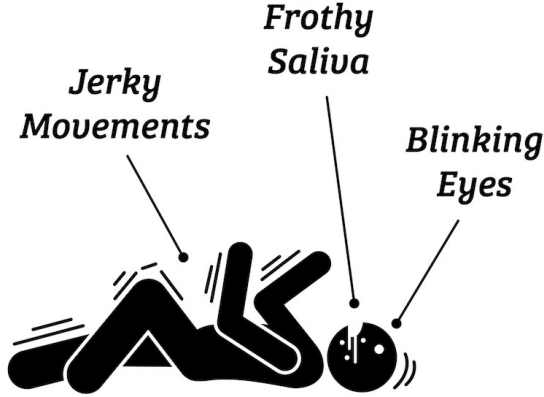
# Stages of a Seizure



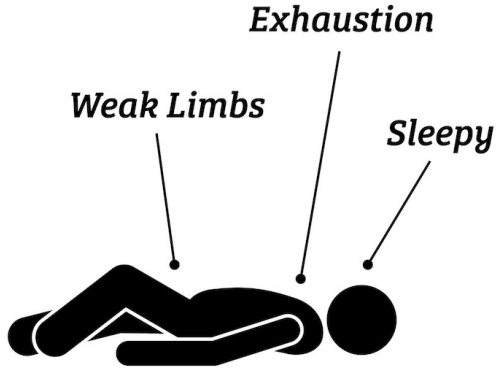
**Aura Stage**



**Tonic Stage**



**Clonic Stage**



**Postictal Stage**



# What are the Signs & Symptoms of a Seizure?

Altered mental status

Tonic/clonic movements

Incontinence

Seizure activity

Evidence of Trauma

Unconscious

Oral trauma

Blank stare

Rhythmic facial movements