

# Managing Simple Febrile Seizures

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## **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Neurology**

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# Agenda

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- What is a febrile seizure?
  - Simple vs Complex Febrile Seizures
- Frequently Asked Questions
  - Do simple febrile seizures need to be treated with anti-seizure medication?
  - Should I order a brain MRI, EEG test, or refer them to Neurology?
  - Would anti-pyretic medications help prevent subsequent febrile seizures when they develop fevers in the future?





# What is a febrile seizure?

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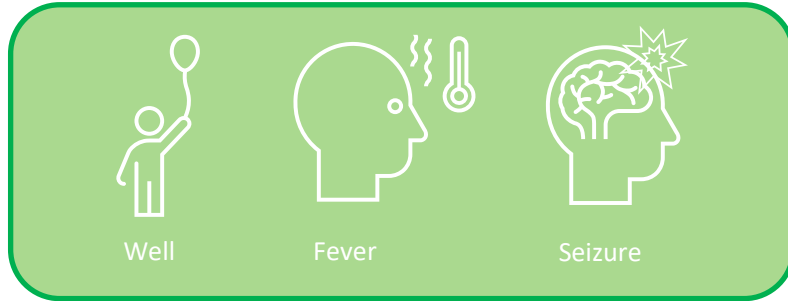
# What is a febrile seizure?

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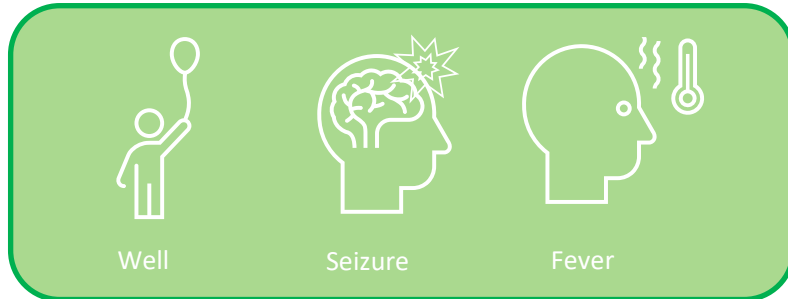
- A febrile seizure is a seizure occurring in a child (between the ages of 6 months and 5 years) who:
  - Has febrile illness
  - Has **not** previously had a non-febrile seizure
  - Does **not** have another cause for their seizure, such as central nervous system infection or electrolyte abnormality



# What is a febrile seizure?



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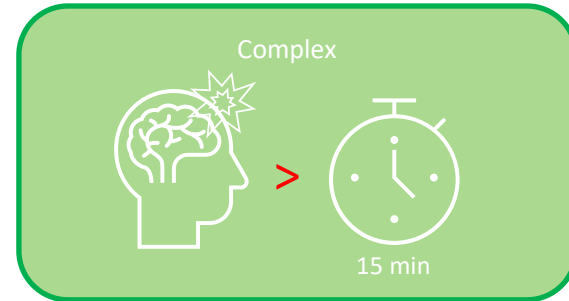
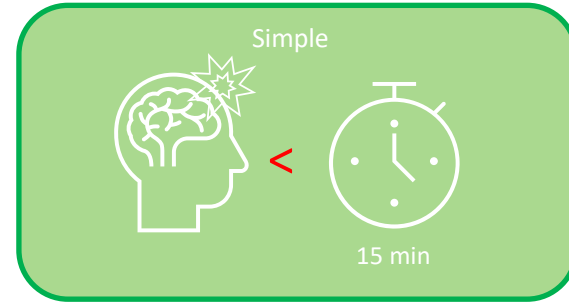


- Sometimes, the fever can present *after* the seizure.
- Febrile seizures are very common and occur in approximately 2-5% of children.



# Simple vs Complex Febrile Seizures

- A **simple febrile seizure** is a febrile seizure that:
  - Occurs as a single seizure
  - Lasts less than 15 minutes
  - Lacks any focal findings such as shaking on only one side of the body
- If a patient has multiple febrile seizures, focal findings during the seizure, or if the seizure lasts more than 15 minutes, then it would be classified as a **complex** febrile seizure.





# Do simple febrile seizures need to be treated with anti-seizure medication?

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# Do simple febrile seizures need to be treated with anti-seizure medication?

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- We **do not** treat patients with simple febrile seizures with daily anti-seizure medication.
- You may consider offering the family a seizure rescue medicine to be given **if the child experiences a future seizure which lasts >5 minutes.**
- In this age group, the rescue medicine we use is called **Diastat**, which is diazepam administered rectally.







Should I order a brain MRI, EEG test, or refer them to Neurology?

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# Should I order a brain MRI, EEG test, or refer them to Neurology?

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- MRI and EEG are **not** needed for patients with simple febrile seizures.
- With simple febrile seizures, the overwhelming majority (~98%) of patients will outgrow their seizures and **Neurology consult is not needed.**





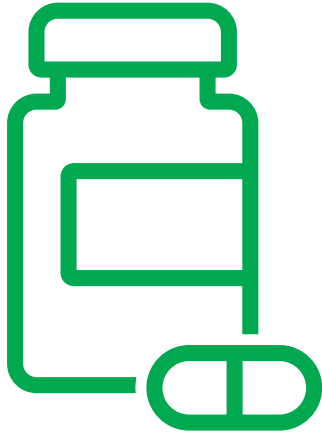
**Would anti-pyretic medications help prevent subsequent febrile seizures when they develop fevers in the future?**

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# Would anti-pyretic medications help prevent subsequent febrile seizures?

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- Antipyretics like acetaminophen or ibuprofen may help with **reducing the fever**, but they haven't been shown to reduce the chances of having a febrile seizure



# THANK YOU!

For additional information, please visit our web page:

<https://www.choa.org/medical-professionals/referrals-and-transfers/directory-of-services/neurosciences-resources>

For specific questions regarding your patient, you may also call 404-785-DOCS (3627) and ask to speak with the on-call neurologist.

