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fact sheet

Emergency Department

Febrile convulsions

What are febrile convulsions?

A febrile convulsion is a seizure or fit that occurs with fever, usually in children under five years of age. Approximately one in 25 children (four per cent) will experience a febrile convulsion at some time.

Febrile convulsions often occur during the early stages of an illness when there is a rapid rise in body temperature. This means your child may have a febrile convulsion before you even realise they are unwell.

It is a very scary experience for most parents but does not harm the child.

What causes febrile convulsions?

The exact reasons behind febrile convulsions is unknown. We do know that children in general have a lower seizure threshold than adults so they are more prone to seizures.

Seizures are caused by a spike or rapid firing of the neurons (nerves) within the brain. In febrile convulsions this occurs when there is a rapid change in the body temperature of the child.

The fever itself may be caused by any infection including viral upper respiratory infections (cold or flu), ear infections, pneumonia, bacterial diarrhoea and, more rarely, infection in the blood stream (sepsis) or infection around the brain (meningitis).

A child who has a febrile convulsion has no more chance of having a serious infection than any other child with a fever.

Signs and symptoms

- Parents usually observe in the child:
- » body stiffening » sharp jerking movements of their arms and legs
- » head arched back eyes rolled back
- The child is unresponsive during the convulsion
- m Typically convulsions last for less than 15 minutes (on average around 90 seconds). The child is usually drowsy afterwards

When should you see someone? All children should be seen by a doctor after a febrile convulsion. The doctor will ensure that the convulsion was due to a fever and will also look for the cause of the fever. This will involve an examination of your child

and possibly some tests.

- Care after a febrile convulsion Sometimes children who have febrile convulsions, particularly prolonged ones, will need to be ob-
- served in hospital for a period of time. When your child is discharged from hospital,
- resume your usual routines. Your child may be 'out of sorts' for a day or so but
- this will pass. No medications are required except paracetamol or ibuprofen as you would usually use them. Regular paracetamol or ibuprofen does not prevent further febrile convulsions.

Follow up

- Usually no further investigations or follow up is
- required after a first febrile convulsion. Febrile convulsions do not cause brain damage and will not affect your child's development.

Things you can do at home If you witness your child having a seizure, you should apply basic principles of first aid.

- First ensure that your child is safe (e.g. away from the edge of a bed and away from sharp or dangerous objects that could injure them)
- Roll your child onto their side when the seizure is over
- Call for an ambulance (ooo) if the seizure lasts more than 5 minutes
- If your child is not breathing, give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation
- consider doing a first aid course



Is periorbital cellulitis an emergency. Is periorbital cellulitis dangerous. Periorbital cellulitis treatment nice guidelines.

Click here to download a printable version of this page Tips for parents/caregivers taking their child home after visiting a hospital health care provider Periorbital cellulitis is an infection of the eyelids The eye area may be red, tender, and warm to the touchMay have a feverThe child may not be able to open the eye completely. CausesPeriorbital cellulitis may follow a minor injury to the eye or as a result of sinusitis. cellulitis usually responds well to antibiotics. Treatment with intravenous antibiotics (given into a vein) is usually only needed for the most severe cases or for those who have not responded to antibiotics are initially hospitalized, while others can be cared for at home. These children who need intravenous antibiotics are initially hospitalized once a day for examination and antibiotics. The decision on when to switch from intravenous antibiotics to oral antibiotics to oral antibiotics to oral antibiotics to oral antibiotics. The decision on when to switch from intravenous antibiotics to oral antibiotics to oral antibiotics. Antibiotics are usually given for a total of 10 days. You can give regular pain relief (paracetamol or ibuprofen) until the discomfort has improved. Complications. However, periorbital cellulite may occasionally to orbital cellulite. This is the point where the infection involves the deepest tissues around the eye and the eyepiece bulb itself. It is a serious infection, which can cause lasting problems and needs immediate care. Immediate care. Immediate care in protrude or protrude or protrude or protrude concern about fever Fast heartbeat Fast, irregular, or difficult breathing Behavioural changes, such as confusion or disorientation Call 999 for an ambulance if you have serious concerns for your child fully vaccinated, as two of the bacteria known to cause this infection are covered within your child's current vaccination program. Keep any minor lesions surrounding the eye clean and dry. Remember good hand hygiene before and after cleaning around the eye. Peri-orbital cellulitis is an infectious process that occurs in the tissues of the superficial eyelids at (front or top) the orbital septum. It is usually due to superficial tissue lesions (e.g., insect bite or chalazion). Orbital cellulitis is an infectious process that affects the muscles and fats within the orbit, posterior or deep to the underlying bacterial sinusitis. Peri-orbital cellulitis is of concern in children because it may be secondary to the underlying occult bacterial sinusitis. or, rarely, due to bacteriaemic spread from a primary infection (e.g., pneumonia), and can rapidly progress to orbital cellulitis in children. Complications include subperiosteal abscess, cavernous sinus thrombosis, intracranial abscess and resulting loss of vision and/or death. Peri-orbital (also known as pre-septal) cellulitis is inflammation and infection of the superficial eyelid, usually from a superficial source. Inflammation remains confined to soft tissue layers to the orbital septum and the ocular function and is usually due to the underlying bacterial sinusitis. Orbital Orbital It is a much more serious condition and deserves admission to the hospital. It has a much higher morbidity than periorbital cellulite, and requires immediate imaging and surgical evaluation by oculoplasty to and a head-neck consultant. Cellulite is a skin infection that is treated with antibiotics. It may be serious if it is not treated quickly. Your skin is painful warm and swollen Early treatment with antibiotics can stop cellulite becoming more severe. 111 will tell you what to do. They can arrange a phone call from a nurse or a doctor if you need it. Go to 111. uk or call 111. Other ways to get A GP help could be able to help you. Ask for medical intervention for an urgent appointment. Cellulite makes the skin painful, warm and inflated. The area usually looks red, but can be less evident on brown or black skin. The skin can also be inflamed, and you can also have swollen, painful glands. You can get cellulite on any part of the body, such as: hands - causing swelling in your fingers or behind your hand. Feet - sometimes close to the feet of an athlete. Legs usually lower legs. Eye - which is very serious. The white part of the eye can become red, but this does not always happen. For mild cellulite that affects a small skin area, a doctor will prescribe antibiotic tablets - usually for a week. Symptoms could worsen in the first 48 hours of treatment, but they should then begin to improve. Contact a generic doctor if you do not start feeling better from 2 to 3 days after the start of antibiotics. It's important to keep taking antibiotics until they're done, even when you feel better. Most people do a full recovery after 7-10 days. If cellulite is severe, it could be indicated in the hospital for treatment. Some people with recurring cellulite may belong-term low dose antibiotics to prevent the occurrence of infections. In addition to taking antibiotics for cellulite, you can help speed up your recovery by taking paracetamol or ibuprofen to increase pain pain the part of the body hit on a cushion or chair when sitting or lying down, to reduce regular swelling move the joint close to the part of the body hit, such as the wrist or ankle, to avoid dehydration by not wearing compression socks until you are no longer able to reduce the chances of getting cellulite again; keep your skin clean and well hydrated clean any cut or wounds and using antiseptic creams preventing cuts and scrapes by wearing appropriate clothing and Footweather gloves if you work out If you are not treated quickly, the infection may spread to other parts of your body, such as blood, muscles and bones. cellulite is usually caused by a bacterial infection. Bacteria can infect the deeper layers of your skin if it is broken, for example, due to an insect bite or cut, or if it is cracked and dry. Sometimes the tear in the skin is too small to notice. You cannot take cellulite from another person, because © affects the deepest layers of the skin. You are more at risk of cellulite if:you have bad circulation in your arms, legs, hands or feet, for example, why © if overweight finds it difficult to move around a weakened immune system, for example due to chemotherapy or diabetic lymphedema, that causes fluid buildup under the skinshot shaving drugs a surgical wound have had cellulite before people who are most at risk of cellulite should treat the athlete's foot immediately. If:you need help for everyday life due to illness or disability for someone regularly because © are sick, elderly or disabled, including family members. Our Help and Support Guide explains your options and where you can get support. Page last review: 04 March 2021 Next review by: 04 March 2024 2024

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