

Epilepsy

Knowledge Paper Answers

Epilepsy Knowledge Paper

1. Why don't we refer to people as epileptics?

They're people not health problems.

2. Give 2 possible triggers for seizures

Stress
Lack of sleep
Alcohol and drugs
Poor medication compliance
Stimuli such as flashing lights
Infections
Missing meals

3. What is 'primary epilepsy'?

Epilepsy with unknown cause

4. Why is it unlikely that a person will be diagnosed with epilepsy after one seizure?

Anyone can have a seizure, epilepsy is a condition of repeated seizures.

5. True or false? Most people with epilepsy have a mild condition which is well controlled.



True



False

6. How would you support a client who was under stress and having frequent seizures?

Find ways of reducing their stress; refer to health professional if necessary

7. Suggest a way in which you could support a client with epilepsy to make safe choices about alcohol

Talk to them about risks; make sure they understand units etc

8. Give an example of a way in which you could make a client's room safer if they were at risk of falling during a seizure.

Use your imagination – if they say remove all hard furniture ' padded cell' also wrong

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9. Why do you think that clients with epilepsy might be discriminated against?

It's seen as a mental illness; they're not always trusted e.g. to look after children

10. Why do people with epilepsy need to get plenty of sleep?

Lack of sleep can trigger seizures

11. Suggest a condition other than epilepsy which may cause seizures or seizure like symptoms

Fainting

Transient Ischaemic Attack (mini stroke)

Migraine

Narcolepsy

Hyperventilation

Pseudo Epilepsy

12. What action would you take if you suspected that a client had experienced a seizure?

Inform manager

13. What are anti-epilepsy drugs meant to do?

Reduce frequency and severity of seizures

14. If a client cannot make their own decisions about treatment options what must doctors do?

Speak to an appropriate person, such as a relative or carer, who will be able to give them medical history. (Act in their best interests)

15. Why is it important for people to talk to their doctor if they are considering stopping taking their anti-epilepsy drugs?

They may be the only reason why they're not having seizures; stopping could be harmful

16. What types of seizure affect all areas of the brain?

Generalised.

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17. Why might you need to time the duration of a seizure?

To aid with diagnosis of Epilepsy.

To determine if emergency help is required (e.g. status epilepticus)

18. What is status epilepticus?

Prolonged seizure (over half hour) and following another without recovery between

19. What must you not do when someone is having a tonic-clonic seizure?

Restrain them

Put fingers in mouth

20. Give one example of a factor that would increase an individual's risk of SUDEP.

Poor control over seizures

Learning disability

Generalised nocturnal

Learning disability

Being a young male

Not taking medication

Frequently or suddenly changing medication