

Seizure terminology⁶

- **Epileptic seizure** results from abnormal, repetitive and synchronised electrical discharges from a group of neurones within the brain. The observed clinical manifestations will depend on the area of the brain where the seizure is occurring
- **Unprovoked single seizure** is used to describe a single seizure or cluster of seizures occurring within 24 hours without an underlying condition or precipitating cause
- **Acute symptomatic or provoked seizure** is an immediate response to any kind of brain insult. Examples include a metabolic or toxic cause (such as alcohol withdrawal or low sodium levels), CNS infection or brain trauma
- **Epilepsy** is defined as a tendency to recurrent, unprovoked seizures. It is usually diagnosed when a patient has had two or more unprovoked seizures
- **Epileptic syndromes** are groups of different types of epilepsy that comprise a characteristic set of seizure types
- **Seizure semiology** is the description of a seizure and includes the symptoms and signs noted directly before, during and after the event
- **Status epilepticus** describes a single seizure with a duration longer than 30 minutes or a cluster of seizures that last longer than 30 minutes with no recovery to baseline in between events