

Table 3

Distinguishing features between seizure, syncope and dissociative attack^{1,2,3,6}

	Seizure	Dissociative	Syncope
Predisposing factors	Birth trauma Febrile convulsion CNS infection Head injury Family history Stroke	History of childhood abuse/psychological trauma History of other medically unexplained symptoms	Family history Medication e.g. antihypertensives Cardiac disease Young
Triggers	Sleep deprivation Alcohol	Sometimes in situations causing psychological distress	Postural trigger Medical procedures Neck movement Heat Standing Exercise Micturition
Aura/prodrome	Positive neurological symptoms: Déjà vu, altered taste/smell, sensation, focal jerking	Dissociative out of body sensations Panic symptoms	Palpitations Lightheadedness Visual symptoms Breathlessness Distal tingling Sweaty, clammy, hot
The attack	Movements: Tonic (stiffening) Rhythmic jerking Automatic movements Cyanosis Eyes open	Flailing/thrashing Side to side head movement Prolonged motionless stare Eyes closed Resisting eye opening Rapid breathing Prolonged attack (> 5 minutes) Treatment resistance to multiple AEDs	Pallor Stiffening or jerks (brief < 1 min) Brief loss of consciousness Rapid orientation Incontinence
Post attack	Slow recovery: Drowsy, confused, amnesia Seizure markers: Lateral tongue biting, muscle pain, headache	Rapid recovery Sometimes upset, tearful	Rapid recovery but sometimes prolonged fatigue