Emergency Procedures for Seizures

Seizure activity is an episodic disturbance of consciousness during which generalized convulsions may occur. These convulsions manifest themselves as muscle or facial spasms and twitching. Sometimes only a twitching of the eyeball is noticed. In other cases, the spasms involve the entire body or a fluttering of the eyes. The student seems slightly dazed, or has sudden head dropping spells and sudden loss of standing posture.

The attack may last from a few seconds to many minutes and may recur repeatedly. Sometimes the student falls during the attack and may become injured. Tongue biting, urinating, or a bowel movement may also occur during the attack.

Since many students have a history of seizure activity, the procedure outlined below will be followed:

1. Keep calm, you cannot stop the seizure. Let it run its course and do not try to revive the student. Ease the student to the floor and loosen clothing.

2. At onset of seizure, began timing the seizure. If the seizure last more than five (5) minutes, or the student seems to pass from one seizure to another without gaining consciousness, notify Emergency Medical Services (9-1-1) and the parent.

3. Do not restrain the student’s movements any more than is absolutely necessary to protect against self-injury.

4. Keep the student away from hard, sharp or hot objects which may cause injury.

5. Do not force the student’s mouth open or force anything between the teeth.

6. Place something soft under the student’s head and turn the head to one side so that the saliva can flow out of the mouth.

7. After the seizure stops, and the student appears to be relaxed, let the student sleep or rest quietly in a place where no disturbances occur.

8. If the student falls during a seizure and there is a possibility of injury as a result of the fall, an accident report must be completed.