Understanding Seizure Clusters

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Disclosures

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Definition

• Set of seizures occurring in close proximity
• Variations of how definition implemented exists
• May be unique for patients
• Therefore, hard to standardize in studies, for seizure action plans, etc.
• Gap in communication between patient/caregiver and provider
• Can be referred to as acute repetitive seizures
Impact

- Surveys of patients and caregivers
- Negative impact:
  - Quality of life
  - Emotional wellbeing
  - Daily function
  - Productivity of the patients and their caregivers
- Increase ED utilization
- Can lead to status epilepticus
Seizure Cluster Unknowns

- Due to variability of definition
  - Prevalence hard to characterize
  - Predict who is at risk is not well known
- Those with treatment resistant epilepsy appears highest risk
- Difficult to quantify and record for caregivers/observers
- Therefore, difficult to know when to give rescue medication
• Seizures of any type may occur in groups or clusters over a number of hours or days
• A person usually recovers between seizures and the clusters will end on their own
• If a person can recognize seizure clusters or acute repetitive seizures easily enough, they can often be treated outside of a hospital setting
Rescue Medications

• FACT: FDA approval is for seizure clusters
• MYTH: FDA approved for prolonged seizures or status epilepticus
Thank you!