

FIRST SEIZURE - NOW WHAT?



Was this definitely a seizure?

Misdiagnosis is common!
30%

Accurate **HISTORY** essential to determine if true epileptic seizure. Video can be helpful

TABLE 1
Look for seizure mimics

Is this actually the first seizure?
Ask leading questions to detect previously unrecognised seizures

Determine cause of seizure

Was the seizure **PROVOKED?**

TABLE 2
Treat the treatable

Unprovoked

Classify seizure

GENERALIZED
Tonic-clonic
Myoclonic
Clonic
Atonic
Absence

FOCAL*
Simple
Complex (impaired consciousness)
Secondary generalized
UNKNOWN

Investigate

*Proposed new ILAE classification (Berg et al. 2010)
Describe focal seizures in terms of their manifestations eg. focal motor, focal sensory, and with/without impairment of awareness/consciousness.
Secondary generalized replaced by "evolving to bilateral convulsive seizure"