Simple partial – The victim remains conscious, but may experience unusual sensations or movements. Complex partial – The seizure may begin with an odd taste or smell, a rising feeling in the stomach, or a sense of déjà vu which may be followed by a loss of awareness during which the victim may make movements such as chewing or tapping. The victim is generally confused after the seizure.

POSSIBLE CAUSES

Brain injury
Brain infection
Structural abnormalities of the brain
Fever
Some drugs
Excessive alcohol use
Genetic factors

SYMPTOMS & SIGNS

Convulsive seizures
Tonic phase the body stiffens
Clonic phase general muscle jerking
Victim loses consciousness
Body stiffens and limbs jerk
May be incontinent
Generally lasts up to three minutes
MANAGEMENT

Stay calm and remain with the victim.

Time the seizure.

Protect the victim from injury – remove hard objects near by.

Place something soft under the head and loosen any tight clothing at the neck.

Roll the victim onto their side as soon as the seizure ends, as for any unconscious victim.

Keep airway clear with backward head tilt.

Reassure the victim and minimise embarrassment during recovery.

Stay with victim until fully recovered (may be up to 20 minutes).

CALL ‘000’ FOR AN AMBULANCE IF:

The seizure lasts for five or more minutes or a second seizure quickly follows the first.

The victim is not conscious within five minutes of the seizure stopping.

The victim does not fully recover after the seizure or has trouble breathing.

The seizure occurs in water.

The victim has ingested food or vomit.

The victim is injured.

The victim is pregnant or is diabetic.

This is the victim’s first seizure.

You are in doubt.