



## **Generalized Seizures (Abnormal electrical activity spreads throughout the brain):**

- 1. Absence (formally called petit mal):** sudden or brief loss of consciousness or awareness. Person does not fall down. Blank stare or eyes may blink. There may be slight muscle movements around the mouth. Maybe misinterpreted as daydreaming. No recovery period, person is able to resume full activities immediately but will have no memory of what occurred during the seizure.
- 2. Tonic Clonic (formerly called Grand mal):** Sudden cry, fall or slump, and loss of consciousness. Stiffening of the body followed by convulsions of the entire body as the muscles alternately contract and relax. Foam may form on corners of the mouth. Breathing may temporarily stop causing the skin to turn bluish. May lose bladder and bowel control. Usually lasts less than 5 minutes. During the recovery period the person will be tired or disoriented and may not be able to communicate. The person will have incomplete or no memory of events prior to the seizure.

## **Partial Seizures (Abnormal electrical activity is limited to only a portion of the brain):**

- 3. Simple Partial – Brief (10-15 seconds):** No loss of consciousness or awareness. May either be sensory or motor related. A change in the senses (vision, hearing, smell, touch or taste) or perception ie. room appears elongate, smell of burnt toast, tingling in one area, sour taste or unexplained emotion etc. Twitching or jerking of a limb may also be witnessed. No recovery period.
- 4. Complex Partial – 2-4 minutes:** Loss of awareness of surroundings. The person may mumble or repeat phrases. May not respond to others. May have blank stare and chewing movements or twitching. May experience disorganized, undirected or purposeless actions ie. picking on clothing or repeated movements, may wander without regard to location or obstacles in path. Other behaviors observed may include crying, moaning, screaming, running, fear, laughing, disrobing, loss of bladder control, abusive language, spitting. Seizure if followed by a recovery period of up to 30 minutes which is characterized by confusion and slow return to complete awareness.