

Febrile Convulsions

Information for patients



What is a febrile convulsion?

- ❖ This is a convulsion (fit or seizure) which can occur in some children with a high temperature.
- ❖ About 3 in 100 children will have a febrile convulsion. They usually occur before age 6

Is it epilepsy?

- ❖ No – febrile convulsions are NOT epilepsy. Epilepsy causes seizures without a fever
- ❖ Febrile convulsions rarely lead to epilepsy.

Do febrile convulsions cause permanent brain damage?

- ❖ No. This is very unlikely

What things cause febrile convulsions?

- ❖ Any illness which causes a temperature – eg a cold or ear infection
- ❖ There is a chance a convulsion will happen again – of 10 children who have a febrile convulsion approximately 3-4 will have more than one.

If you think your child is feverish -

- ❖ Do not over dress your child, keep them cool
- ❖ Encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids
- ❖ Give paracetamol or ibuprofen, follow instructions on label for correct dose and how often it can be given.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS A FIT

- ❖ Keep calm. It is very frightening when your child has a fit, but they will not be aware of what is happening.
- ❖ Do not hold your child down when he/she is having a fit
- ❖ Lay your child on his/her side on the floor to prevent choking or accidental injury.
- ❖ Do not put anything in your child's mouth.
- ❖ Make a note of how long the fit lasted and seek medical advice.

If you are unclear about any of the above instructions, please contact A&E

University Hospital Hairmyres:
01355 584716

University Hospital Monklands:
01236 712191

University Hospital Wishaw:
01698 366630

NHS 24: 111

Ask for reception in Accident and Emergency.



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