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Drugs Used for Seizure  
Disorders

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Seizures

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Symptoms of an abnormality in the nerve centers of the brain

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Causes change in consciousness, sensory and motor systems, and behavior

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Can be caused by fever, head injury, infections, tumors, drugs, poisons or hypoglycemia

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Seizures

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Epilepsy

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Generalized Convulsive Seizures

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Tonic-clonic (grand mal)

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Atonic or Akinetic

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Myoclonic

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Generalized Nonconvulsive Seizures

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Absence or petit mal

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Partial or localized

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Anticonvulsant Therapy

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Try to identify cause, if can treat, may not need meds

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Goal-reduce frequency of seizures, minimize side effects of meds

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Start with first-line drugs

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Anticonvulsant Drugs

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Work to increase the seizure threshold

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May need to adjust, mix, change meds until find combo to work

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Nursing Process and Anticonvulsant Therapy

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Assessment

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History of seizure activity

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Description of seizure

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Postictal Behavior

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Diagnoses???

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Planning

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Implementation

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Nursing Process cont

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Implications

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Compliance

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Side effects

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Drug Class: Benzodiazepines

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Inhibit neurotransmission by enhancing GABA

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Ex. Diazepam (Valium), clonazepam (Klonopin), chlorazepate (Tranxene)

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PO, IV, IM

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Side effects

- \* Drug Class: Hydantoins
- \* Mechanism unknown
- \* Phenytoin (Dilantin)
- \* Fosphenytoin (Cerebyx)
- \* Side effects
- \* AVOID IM
- \* Reduced contraception ability
- \* Interacts with lots of drugs- NYSTAGMUS (involuntary eye movements)
- \* Drug Class: Succinimides
- \* Mechanism unknown
- \* Used in petit mal seizures
- \* Ethosuximide (Zarontin)
- \* Methsuximide (Celontin)
- \* Side effects
- \* Drug Class: Miscellaneous
- \* Carbamazepine (Tegretol)
- \* Blocks reuptake of norepinephrine and decreases release
- \* Need ongoing CBC, liver, u/a BUN, Creat, eye exams
- \* Side effects
- \* Drug Class: Miscellaneous

- \* Gabapentin (Neurontin)
- \* Side effects
- \* Lamotrigine (Lamictal)-new
  - \* Skin rash common-may continue therapy
- \* Drug Class : Miscellaneous
- \* Levetiracetam (Keppra)
- \* Oxcarbazepine (Trileptal)
- \* Phenobarbital (Luminal)-extreme sedation
- \* Primidone (Mysoline)
- \* Drug Class: Miscellaneous
- \* Tigabine (Gabatril)
- \* Topiramate (Topamax)
- \* Valproic acid (Depekane)
- \* Zonisamide (Zonegran)
- \* Final notes
- \* NEVER STOP SUDDENLY
- \* May take several months to find combo that works
- \* Stress, caffeine, puberty, trigger seizures