

The following doses should be given:

3 months to 1 year old - 120mg or one 5ml medicine spoonful

1 year to 3 years old - 240mg or two 5ml medicine spoonfuls

4 years old and over - 360mg or three 5ml medicine spoonfuls

Dosage may be repeated every 4 to 6 hours, up to a maximum of 4 doses in 24 hours.

If your child seems ill, or has earache or a sore throat, let your doctor see him in case he needs any other treatment such as antibiotics.

Information about you- The Data Protection Act 1998

Please refer to the booklet 'Your Healthcare Information – Your Rights! Our Responsibilities!' for further guidance.

The information may also be used to plan NHS services and assist in the teaching and training of health professionals. To make sure that patient confidentiality is maintained a policy has been written informing **all staff** of their responsibilities.

How to comment on your treatment

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer your questions. However, if you have any concerns you can also contact the Patient Experience Service on 0800 917 6039 or E-mail portsmouthhospitals.patientexperience@porthosp.nhs.uk

Other sources of information:

NHS Direct online:

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Helpline: 0845 4647

Fever fits (febrile convulsions)

Advice for parents



The Paediatric Unit
Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham
Tel: (023) 9228 3344

Specialist Support

If you require this leaflet in another language, large print or another format, please contact the Health Information Centre Tel: (023) 9228 6757, who will advise you.

Your child has had a febrile convulsion

We know it was a very frightening experience for you: you may even have thought that your child was dead or dying. Many parents think that when they first see a febrile convulsion. However, febrile convulsions are not as serious as they look. We have produced this leaflet so that you may have some facts about febrile convulsions.

What is a febrile convulsion?

It is an attack brought on by fever in a child usually aged between 6 months and 4 to 5 years.

What is a convulsion?

A convulsion is an attack in which the person becomes unconscious and stiff, with jerking of the arms and legs. It is caused by a storm of electrical activity in the brain. The words *convulsion*, *fit* and *seizure* mean the same thing.

What should I do if my child has another convulsion?

- Lay your child flat on their side, with their head at the same level or slightly lower than their body
- Note the time (write it down if you can without leaving your child). It is not necessary to do anything else, just wait for the convulsion to stop
- Do not try to place a gag in your child's mouth
- Do not force anything into your child's mouth
- Do not slap or shake your child
- The hospital may give you medicine to insert into your child's bottom. This is called Rectal Diazepam. If the convulsion carries on for more than 5 minutes (by the clock) give the rectal diazepam- one 5mg dose
- This should stop the convulsion within 10 minutes. If it does not, bring your child to the hospital or dial 999 if necessary. In any event, let your doctor know what has happened

Is regular treatment with medicine or tablets necessary?

Usually not. The doctors will explain to you if your child is thought suitable for regular treatment.

Are febrile convulsions common?

Yes. About 1 child in 30 will have had one by the age of 5 years.

Is it epilepsy?

No. The word epilepsy is applied to 'fits' without fever, usually in older children or adults.

Do febrile convulsions lead to epilepsy?

Rarely. 99 out of 100 children with febrile convulsions never have convulsions after they reach school age, and never have fits without fever.

Do febrile convulsions cause permanent brain damage?

Almost never. In nearly 2,000 American children who were examined carefully for evidence of permanent damage following febrile convulsions, none was found. It is thought that, very rarely, a child who has had a prolonged febrile convulsion lasting for 30 minutes or more may suffer permanent damage from it.

What things bring on a febrile convulsion?

Any illnesses which cause a high temperature may do it, usually a cold or other virus infection.

Will it happen again?

Possibly. Of 10 children who have had febrile convulsions about 3 or 4 will have more than one. The risk of having another gets rapidly less after the age of 3 years.

Will my child suffer discomfort or pain during a convulsion?

No. Your child unconscious and unaware of what is happening. The convulsion is much more disturbing for you than your child.

What should I do if my child has a fever?

- You can take the temperature by placing the bulb of the thermometer under their armpit for 3 minutes with their arm held against their side
- Keep your child cool
- Do not overclothe them or overheat the room
- Give plenty of fluids to drink
- Give children's paracetamol medicine to get their temperature down