

Clinical Characteristics of PNES and Epileptic Seizures in Youth

Factors	PNES	Epileptic Seizures
Duration	Prolonged	Shorter (usually < 5mins)
Clinical features during episode	Various, inconsistent, atypical	Stereotypic
Time of the day	During wakefulness	Anytime
Consciousness	Preserved even with generalized motor activity	Usually altered
Onset	Gradual, with escalation in intensity	Abrupt
Head movements	Often side-to-side	Typically, unilaterally turned, with staring expression
Extremities	Out-of-phase movements, unusual posturing	In-phase movements, rhythmic muscle contractions
Vocalizations	Emotional crying, any vocalizations	Cry at the onset of episode
Eyes	Can be tightly closed during episode	May be open during the episode
Pelvic thrusting	Forward direction	Retrograde direction
Incontinence, tongue bite	Rare, but possible	Can be present
Postictal changes	None or brief, even after a prolonged episode	Prolonged with confusion, fatigue
Related injury	Inconsistent with fall	Consistent with fall

Adapted from:

1. Szabó L, Sieglér Z, Zubek L, Liptai Z, Körhegyi I, Bánsági B, Fogarasi A. A detailed semiologic analysis of childhood psychogenic nonepileptic seizures. *Epilepsia*. 2012; 53(3): 565-70.
2. Dhiman V, Sinha S, Rawat VS, Vijaysagar KJ, Thippeswamy H, Srinath S, Chaturvedi SK, Satishchandra P. Children with psychogenic non-epileptic seizures (PNES): A detailed semiologic analysis and modified new classification. *Brain Development*. 2014;36(4):287-93.
3. Asadi-Pooya A, Emami, M. Juvenile and adult-onset psychogenic non-epileptic seizures. *Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery*. 2013;115(9):1697-700.

