

Late-onset posttraumatic seizures

Estimated **incidence** of Late-onset **posttraumatic seizures** 10–13% within 2 yrs after “significant” **head trauma** (includes LOC > 2mins, GCS < 8 on **admission**, **epidural hematoma**...) for all age groups ^{1) 2)}
Relative risk: 3.6 times control population. The incidence of **severe head injury** > moderate > mild ³⁾.

The incidence of early PTS is higher in children than adults, but late seizures are much less frequent in children (in children who have PTS, 94.5% develop them within 24 hrs of the injury ⁴⁾). Most patients who have not had a seizure within 3 yrs of **penetrating head injury** will not develop seizures ⁵⁾. The risk of late PTS in children does not appear related to the occurrence of early PTS (in adults: only true for mild injuries). Risk of developing late PTS may be higher after repeated head injuries.

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Young B, Rapp RP, Norton JA, et al. Failure of Prophylactically Administered Phenytoin to Prevent Early Posttraumatic Seizures. J Neurosurg. 1983; 58:231–235

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Annegers JF, Grabow JD, Groover RV, et al. Seizures After Head Trauma: A Population Study. Neurology. 1980; 30:683–689

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Hahn YS, Fuchs S, Flannery AM, et al. Factors Influencing Posttraumatic Seizures in Children. Neurosurgery. 1988; 22:864–867

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