Pearls
- IM Midazolam is effective in the termination of seizures. Do not delay IM administration to obtain IV or IO access or blood glucose analysis in an actively seizing patient.
- For a seizure that begins in the presence of EMS, if the patient was previously conscious, alert and oriented, take the time to assess and protect the patient and providers and CONSIDER THE CAUSE. The seizure may stop, especially in patients who have prior history of self-limiting seizures. However, do not hesitate to treat recurrent or prolonged (> 1 minute) seizure activity.
- Status Epilepticus is defined as two or more successive seizures without a period of consciousness or recovery, or one prolonged seizure lasting longer than 5 minutes. This is a true emergency requiring rapid airway control, treatment, and transport.
- Grand Mal seizures (generalized) are associated with a loss of consciousness, incontinence, and oral trauma.
- Focal seizures (Petit Mal) affect only a part of the body and are not associated with a loss of consciousness.
- Assess the possibility of occult trauma and substance abuse.
- Be prepared for airway problems and continued seizures. Be prepared to assist ventilations or manage the airway, especially if Midazolam is used.