

Scottish Paediatric Epilepsy Network (SPEN)

Use of Oxygen in the Management of Epileptic Seizures

Most epileptic seizures are short and self-resolving (lasting less than 3 minutes).

There is no evidence to support the use of oxygen for epileptic seizures which stop within 5 minutes, even when the child/young person is in hospital.

The administration of oxygen from the onset of a seizure may lead parents / carers to believe that this is an important part of seizure management and ultimately affect their confidence in managing seizures.

Oxygen should only be used in the management of epileptic seizures which show no sign of slowing down or stopping by 5 minutes in the hospital setting unless there are unusual features, and this is advised by the attending senior decision maker.