

JUST THE FACTS: POSTTRAUMATIC SEIZURES

Risk Factors

(Early Posttraumatic Seizures)

- GCS < 11
- Immediate seizures
- Post-traumatic amnesia >30 min
- Linear or depressed skull fracture
- Penetrating head injury
- Subdural, epidural, or intracerebral hematoma
- Cortical contusion
- Age < 65 yrs
- Chronic alcoholism

Indications for Posttraumatic Seizure Prophylaxis

Traumatic Brain Injury + 1 of:

- GCS ≤ 8
- Subdural, epidural, or intracerebral hematoma
- Depressed skull fracture
- Penetrating head wound
- Cortical contusion visible on CT
- Immediate seizure



Suggested Treatment

1) Levetiracetam

- Loading dose: 20 mg/kg IV
- Maintenance dose: 1000 mg IV/PO q12h
- No drug monitoring

OR

2) Phenytoin

- Loading dose: 20 mg/kg IV
- Maintenance dose: 100 mg IV q8h
- Target trough level: 40-80 umol/L

