

- Sudden dropping forward of the head and neck with trunk flexed forward and knees drawn up—the *salaam* or *jackknife* seizure

Less often: Alternate clinical forms

- Extensor spasms rather than flexion of arms, legs, and trunk, and head nodding
- Lightning events involving a single, momentary, shock-like contraction of the entire body

**TABLE 27-3**

**Comparison of Simple Partial, Complex Partial, and Absence Seizures**

Clinical Manifestations	Simple Partial	Complex Partial	Absence
Age of onset	Any age	Uncommon before 3 years old	Uncommon before 3 years old
Frequency (per day)	Variable	Rarely over one or two times	Multiple
Duration	Usually <30 seconds	Usually >60 seconds, rarely <10 seconds	Usually <10 seconds, rarely >30 seconds
Aura	May be sole manifestation of seizure	Frequent	Never
Impaired consciousness	Never	Always	Always; brief loss of consciousness
Automatisms	No	Frequent	Frequent
Clonic movements	Frequent	Occasional	Occasional
Postictal impairment	Rare	Frequent	Never
Mental disorientation	Rare	Common	Unusual

## Diagnostic Evaluation

Establishing a diagnosis is critical for making a prognosis and planning appropriate treatment. The process of diagnosis in a child suspected of having had a seizure(s) or having epilepsy includes first determining whether the events thought to be seizures are