

preschool or even school age. Cerebral palsy is one of the most common neurologic deficits in survivors of prematurity (see [Chapter 30](#)).

Neonatal Seizures

Seizures in the neonatal period are usually the clinical manifestation of a serious underlying disease. The most common cause of seizures for term and preterm neonates is hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy secondary to perinatal asphyxia ([Verklan and Lopez, 2011](#)). Although not life threatening as an isolated entity, seizures constitute a medical emergency because they signal a disease process that may produce irreversible cerebral damage. Consequently, it is imperative to recognize a seizure and its significance so that the cause, as well as the seizure, can be treated ([Box 8-5](#)).

Box 8-5

Causes of Neonatal Seizures

Metabolic

Hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia

Hypocalcemia

Hypernatremia, hyponatremia

Hypomagnesemia

Pyridoxine deficiency

Aminoaciduria (e.g., phenylketonuria, maple syrup urine disease)

Hyperammonemia

Toxic

Uremia