

seizure, according to the International Classification of Epileptic Seizures. Optimal treatment and prognosis require an accurate diagnosis and a determination of the cause whenever possible.

Etiology

Seizures in children have many different causes. Seizures are classified according to type and etiology. Acute symptomatic (reactive) seizures are associated with an acute insult, such as head trauma or meningitis. Remote symptomatic seizures are those without an immediate cause but with an identifiable prior brain injury such as major head trauma, meningitis or encephalitis, hypoxia, stroke, or a static encephalopathy, such as cognitive impairment or cerebral palsy. Cryptogenic seizures are those occurring with no clear cause. Idiopathic seizures are genetic in origin. A partial list of causative factors is presented in [Box 27-6](#).

Box 27-6

Etiology of Seizures in Children

Nonrecurrent (Acute)

Febrile episodes

Intracranial infection

Intracranial hemorrhage

Space-occupying lesions (cyst, tumor)

Acute cerebral edema

Anoxia

Toxins

Drugs

Tetanus