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Parental Knowledge and Practices Regarding Febrile Convulsions in Turkish Children

of

Ertan KAYSERİLİ<sup>1</sup>, Ayca ÜNALP<sup>2</sup>, Hurşit APA<sup>1</sup>, Suna ASİLSOY<sup>3</sup>,  
Murat HIZARCIOĞLU<sup>1</sup>, Pamir GÜLEZ<sup>1</sup>, Hasan AĞIN<sup>1</sup>

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 [Authors](#)



[medsci@tubitak.gov.tr](mailto:medsci@tubitak.gov.tr)

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Behçet Uz Child Disease and Pediatric Surgery Training and Research Hospital, İzmir - TURKEY

<sup>2</sup>Department of Pediatric Neurology, Behçet Uz Child Disease and Pediatric Surgery Training and Research Hospital, İzmir - TURKEY

<sup>3</sup>Department of Pediatric Allergy, Behçet Uz Child Disease and Pediatric Surgery Training and Research Hospital, İzmir - TURKEY

**Abstract:** Aims: Families with children afflicted with febrile convulsions must be given adequate information regarding seizures and fever, and they need emotional support and first-aid demonstrations. In this study, we aimed to determine parental knowledge and practices regarding febrile convulsions in Turkish children. Materials and Methods: Questionnaires were given to 122 parents whose children were admitted to the emergency service of Behçet Uz Children's Hospital between July 2006 and April 2007 with febrile convulsion episodes. Sixty-three parents whose children had a febrile convulsion for the first time (Group 1) and 59 parents whose children had a recurrent febrile convulsion (Group 2) completed the survey. Differences in parental knowledge and practices regarding febrile convulsions in the two groups were tested by Student's test or chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test. Results: Parents in both groups generally believed that febrile convulsion is a life-threatening event (81.2% and 90%), and that EEG and CT were necessary (81% and 88.1%). Forty-seven parents (73.4%) in Group 1 and 52 (85.2%) in Group 2 had concerns about possible development of epilepsy in their children in the future. Approximately half of the parents did not know what to do during a febrile convulsion episode. Conclusions: We believe the questionnaire facilitates the quantitative measurement and systematic evaluation of the knowledge, attitude and concerns of families in the matter of febrile convulsions. Furthermore, the efficiency of parental first-aid practices can be evaluated and significant improvement can be achieved by giving adequate information to the parents.

**Key Words:** Febrile convulsion, childhood, parental knowledge, practice, questionnaire

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