

# First-generation antihistamines increase risk for seizures in children

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First-generation antihistamines are associated with a higher seizure risk in young children, according to a study [published](#) online Aug. 28 in *JAMA Network Open*.

Ju Hee Kim, M.D., from the Kyung Hee University Medical Center in Seoul, South Korea, and colleagues evaluated associations between prescriptions of first-generation [antihistamines](#) and [seizures](#) in children. The analysis included data from the National Health Insurance Service database in Korea for children born in 2002 through 2005, who visited the [emergency department](#) for seizure events through 2019.

The researchers identified 11,729 children who had a seizure event and were prescribed antihistamines during the hazard period (one to 15 days before seizure; 1,476 children) or the control period (31 to 45 days before seizure [1,239 children] or 61 to 75 days before seizure [1,278 children]), but not both. Most seizure events occurred in children aged 6 to 24 months (31.0%) and 25 months to 6 years (45.5%).

A first-generation antihistamine prescription was associated with an increased seizure event risk during the hazard period (adjusted odds ratio [aOR], 1.22). This risk was even higher in children aged 6 to 24 months who were prescribed first-generation antihistamines (aOR, 1.49) versus children aged 25 months to 6 years (aOR, 1.11).

"These findings emphasize the need for careful and judicious prescription of first-generation antihistamines in [young children](#) and underline the need for further research to elucidate associations between antihistamine prescriptions and seizure risk," the authors write.

**More information:** Ju Hee Kim et al, First-Generation Antihistamines and Seizures in Young Children, *JAMA Network Open* (2024). [DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.29654](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.29654)

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