

## Presentation

Presented in a glass bottle containing 5 ml of midazolam, 10 milligrams per 1ml and supplied with four 1 ml syringes to draw up the dose.

## Indications

Buccal Midazolam can be used as an anticonvulsant for generalised **convulsions** lasting **more than 5 minutes**, as they may not stop spontaneously.

Ambulance paramedics and technicians can administer the patient's own prescribed midazolam provided they are competent to administer buccal medication and are familiar with midazolam's indications, actions and side effects. Those that are not familiar with the use of this medication should use rectal (PR) or intravenous (IV) diazepam instead.

NB If the child continues fitting **10 minutes after their first dose of anticonvulsant**, they should receive intravenous **diazepam** for any further anticonvulsant treatment. If it is not possible to gain vascular access for the second dose of medication, no further drug treatment should be used, even if this means that the child continues to fit i.e. do not give a second dose of buccal or rectal medication

Where a generalised convulsion continues ten minutes after the second anticonvulsant, senior medical advice should be sought.

## Contra-indications

None.

## Dosage and Administration

**Route:** buccal (administered by carers).

**Dosage** – individual tailored dose as per the patient's individualised treatment plan.

### Administration

The required dose is drawn up and half the dose is administered quickly to each side of the lower buccal cavity (between the cheek and gum).

**NB** If a generalised convulsion continues ten minutes after the second dose, senior medical advice should be sought.

## Actions

Midazolam has a sedative action similar to that of diazepam but of shorter duration. The onset of action usually occurs within five minutes, but is dependent on the route of administration. In 80% of episodes convulsions have stopped after ten minutes.

## Side Effects

The side effects of buccal midazolam are similar in effect to IV administration, although, the timings may differ:

- Respiratory depression.
- Hypotension.
- Drowsiness.
- Muscle weakness.
- Slurred speech.
- Occasionally agitation, restlessness and disorientation may occur.

## Additional Information

- **Midazolam is a benzodiazepine drug, which is now being administered by carers to treat convulsions as an alternative to rectal diazepam.**
- Some patients may have a Patient Specific Direction (PSD) drawn up by their specialist, customised to the specific nature of their convulsions. This is especially true of patients with learning disabilities living in residential care homes. Whenever possible check with the carers for the existence of a PSD for the patient, as this will normally give further guidance on treatment and when the patient should be further assessed.