

# Diazepam rectal

(Diazepam Rectal Solution®)

## What is diazepam?

Diazepam belongs to a group of drugs known as benzodiazepines. It is only available with a doctor's prescription.

## What is it for?

Rectal diazepam is used for the treatment of seizures (fits). Most seizures in children stop within 5 to 10 minutes but occasionally they are prolonged, and this may be harmful to your child. If a single seizure or group of seizures lasts for 30 minutes or more it is called **status epilepticus**. To try and prevent prolonged seizures, rectal diazepam is prescribed for use at home, and where appropriate, at school. When diazepam is given rectally it is readily absorbed into the blood stream.

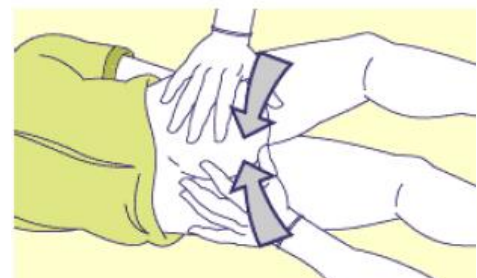
## How to give this medication

It is important that this medication is given only as directed and not given to other people. Rectal diazepam is given for any seizure lasting longer than 5 minutes or as directed by your doctor. The precise dose and timing will be decided by the doctor.

You will be given an individual protocol to follow for your child - please time any seizures rather than guess so that you know when to use the rectal diazepam.

To administer the diazepam:

- Place your child on their left side in the recovery position, if possible.
- Put gloves on or wash your hands with soap and water
- Break the safety cap at the top of the tube.
- Lubricate the nozzle of the rectal tube (with lubricating jelly), separate the buttocks and then gently insert the nozzle fully into the rectum and gently squeeze the tube to discharge contents.
- Keep squeezing the tube until you have drawn it out of the rectum.
- Once the nozzle is removed from the rectum, hold the buttocks together and continue to hold for a few minutes to prevent leakage of the diazepam.



Rectal diazepam is given only **when required**, not daily like most medicines.

## Important information

If your child is having a seizure in which he/she is convulsing or unconscious, it is important to follow simple first aid measures, this includes protection from injury and positioning on their side to assist breathing.

The medication may take 5 to 10 minutes to work. Follow your doctor's advice on when to give a second dose of diazepam and/or when to take your child to hospital (for example, if the fitting continues).

Record when the seizure occurred, the duration and the use of rectal diazepam on your child's seizure record chart.

Rectal diazepam is to be administered via the rectum only and **not to be taken by mouth**. If unsure of how to administer, please contact your health professional.

## Storing the medication

It is important to keep diazepam locked away out of the reach of children.

Do not keep the medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or any other damp, warm place, because this may make the medication less effective.

## Possible side effects

Diazepam has a sedative effect and your child may be sleepy for some time afterwards. Other side effects when using rectal diazepam may include rash, diarrhoea, slowed breathing, headache, incoordination and euphoria. If you are worried about these side effect or any others, please contact your child's doctor.

## Commercially available dosage forms and strengths

- rectal solution 5mg per 5mL.

Your hospital pharmacy will advise you if they manufacture any additional dosage forms to the above.

If you have any concerns contact your child's doctor, or the PCH Pharmacy Department.

Dispensary: 6456 0190 – select option 2

Paediatric Medicines Information Service: 6456 0190 – select option 1

**In case of overdose or poisoning contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.**



Government of **Western Australia**  
Child and Adolescent Health Service



**Child and Adolescent Health Service**  
15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009.  
Telephone: (08) 6456 2222  
Produced by: Pharmacy  
Ref: 608 © CAHS 2017 Revised 2022

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