

Midazolam buccal (midazolam injectable)

What is midazolam used for?

Midazolam is from a group of drugs known as benzodiazepines. It may be used in the emergency treatment of prolonged seizures but can also be prescribed for other conditions. Midazolam can be given buccally which means it is administered in the space between the cheek and the gum. It is available only on prescription.

How is midazolam packaged?

Midazolam for buccal administration comes in a plastic ampoule with a twist top that is easily removed. These ampoules are labelled "for slow IV or IM injection" but are suitable for buccal use. The concentration is 5mg/mL and each ampoule (1mL) contains approximately 20 drops. Once the seal is broken on the midazolam ampoule it must be used immediately or discarded safely.

How is midazolam given for seizures?

The dose of midazolam should be individualised by your doctor. Buccal midazolam may be given for a seizure lasting longer than 5 minutes or as directed by your doctor.



Step 1: Open the plastic ampoule by twisting off the top.

Step 2: If you have been instructed to use only part of the ampoule, expel the appropriate number of drops on a tissue before administering the dose.

Step 3: Lay the child on their side (i.e., recovery position) and then insert the ampoule between the inside of the lower cheek (closest to the ground) and the gum and gently squeeze the ampoule to administer the dose. The dose may be administered on each side of the mouth. The solution doesn't need to be swallowed. Give 3 squeezes of the ampoule to make sure it has all been given.



Step 4: After administering watch the child's breathing and seizure activity while they remain in recovery position.

Step 5: Write down the time that the seizure started, when the midazolam was given and when the seizure stopped.



Buccal midazolam for prolonged seizures is used as part of your acute seizure management plan which includes first aid and, in most cases, calling an ambulance.

It is important to follow your doctor's advice on when to give the second dose of midazolam and when to take your child to hospital (e.g. if the seizure continues).

Possible side effects

The most common side effects that may be seen are drowsiness, headache, weakness, tiredness, altered mood (giggly, hyperactivity) and altered balance.

Very rarely the child's breathing may become shallow and slower. If this happens, call an ambulance immediately.

Midazolam can interact with other medications. It is important to consult your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medication. This includes those you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Storing the medication

- It is important to keep the midazolam in a secure cupboard out of reach of children.
- Store at room temperature, below 25°C and protect from light. Do not leave the ampoules in a hot location such as your car or bathroom.
- The ampoules are protected from light by a silver foil. Discard the ampoules eight months after opening the foil.

Commercially available dosage forms and strengths

- Midazolam injection 5mg per 1mL (approximately 20 drops).

The PCH Pharmacy Department can advise you if any dosage forms are available in addition 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.



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