

www.palliativedrugs.com survey

Do you use buccal midazolam?

November 2009 – January 2010

Number of responses = 116

1) Where do you undertake most of your work? (one of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
Hospital	18	16%
Hospice	53	46%
Community	45	39%

2) How often do you use buccal midazolam in palliative care? (one of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
Regularly (weekly)	24	21%
Sometimes (once every 2-3months)	37	32%
Rarely (less than 3 times a year)	37	32%
Never	18	16%

3) For what indication(s) do you use buccal midazolam in palliative care? (many of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of voters</i>
Epileptic seizures	75	65
Terminal restlessness	44	38
Other (please state in the comments section at the end of the survey)	42	36
Do not use buccal midazolam in palliative care	13	11

4) How do you use buccal midazolam for epileptic seizures in palliative care? (one of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
First line	39	34%
Only if venous access unavailable	9	8%
Only if venous access and subcutaneous access unavailable	27	23%
Do not use buccal midazolam for epileptic seizures in palliative care	32	28%

5) What would generally be your starting dose for buccal midazolam in epileptic seizures in palliative care? (one of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
2.5mg	12	10%
5mg	30	26%
7.5mg	2	2%
10mg	33	28%
12.5mg	0	0%
15mg	0	0%
Other (please state in the comments section at the end of the survey)	7	6%
Do not use buccal midazolam for epileptic seizures in palliative care	26	22%

6) How do you use buccal midazolam for terminal restlessness in palliative care? (one of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
First line	15	13%
Only if venous access unavailable	2	2%
Only if venous access and subcutaneous access unavailable	24	21%
Other	10	9%
Do not use buccal midazolam for terminal restlessness in palliative care	54	47%

7) What would generally be your starting dose for buccal midazolam in terminal restlessness in palliative care? (one of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
2.5mg	27	23%
5mg	16	14%
7.5mg	2	2%
10mg	3	3%
12.5mg	0	0%
15mg	0	0%
Other (please state in the comments section at the end of the survey)	6	5%
Do not use buccal midazolam for terminal restlessness in palliative care	47	41%

8) What midazolam preparation do you use to administer a buccal dose? (one of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
Buccal liquid (unlicensed, obtained from a special order/named patient supply)	48	41%
Injection administered via buccal route	43	37%
Other (please state in the comments section at the end of the survey)	16	14%

9) Have you ever used intranasal midazolam?

10 members reported that they have used intranasal midazolam, for anxiety related to breathlessness (6 responses, 2 in MND) and epileptic seizures (4 responses). Comments included that using the IV formulation via the intranasal route stings and is very unpleasant.

10) Further comments

Many reported that buccal midazolam has a place in managing patients in the community if prescribed in anticipation, especially out of hours, and that it is more acceptable than PR diazepam for seizures. Several members also prescribe it for patients where a terminal bleed is anticipated.

Some members have experienced difficulties in getting a prescription from GPs due to the use off-label or of the unlicensed formulation. The difference in the strength of the unlicensed formulation 10mg/mL compared to the intravenous formulation 5mg/mL was also highlighted.