

Important information

After using a dose, it is important to replace your supplies if you have run out.

Check the expiry date of the medication regularly. If it has expired, obtain some new medication and then discard the expired ampoules. Once it has expired the safety cannot be guaranteed and it may not work as well.

If your child attends school, preschool or childcare, make sure you discuss their medication needs with the staff so that a health support plan can be arranged for your child and training organised for staff.

Possible side effects

- Drowsiness. Midazolam stays in the body only a short time so the effect of the medication will wear off soon after it is given. Most children are drowsy after having the medication. If this continues for more than 2 hours, contact your child's doctor.
- Tiredness
- Weakness
- Irritation and stinging in the nostrils
- Headache

Very rarely, the child's breathing may gradually get slower and shallower. If this happens, the child may require mouth to mouth resuscitation for a few minutes until the breathing improves. Call an ambulance immediately. Please make sure you know

how to do mouth to mouth resuscitation – if you are not sure, talk to your child's doctor.

When your child becomes conscious again after the fit, he/she may be disorientated because of the fit, as well as from the medication.

Possible side effects continued

If you are worried about any of these side effects or any others please contact your child's doctor.

More Information

If you have any other questions about intranasal midazolam or how to use it, please do not hesitate to ask. More information can be obtained from the following:

- Your child's doctor.
- The Pharmacy Department, Women's and Children's Hospital
Telephone: (08) 8161 7222
Fax: (08) 8161 6049

Pharmacy Department
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72 King William Road
North Adelaide SA 5006
Phone: (08) 8161 6118
Fax: (08) 8161 7003

About Your Medication

Midazolam (Intranasal)



What is midazolam and what is it for?

Midazolam belongs to a group of medications called benzodiazepines. When given into the nose (intranasal) it is used for treating seizures (fits) and also to cause drowsiness (sedation) before medical procedures. Midazolam can also be given by mouth and injection.

When to use intranasal midazolam

Intranasal midazolam is used to treat prolonged seizures. Your child's doctor will tell you when to use it.

Dose

Although the dose will be prescribed by your child's doctor, it will usually be 5mg (the contents of one plastic ampoule). In some circumstances, a lower dose may be prescribed – 0.2mg/kg up to 5mg. (1ml contains approximately 16 drops). In other cases, 2 ampoules may be prescribed. If you are unsure of the exact dose, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Test dose

It is strongly recommended that each patient have a test dose under appropriate medical/nursing supervision.

How to give this medication

It is important that this medication is used only as directed and is not given to other people.

Midazolam for intranasal use will be supplied as the 5mg in 1mL strength solution in plastic ampoules (normally used for injection). There are other strengths and glass ampoules available, but only the 5 mg in 1 mL strength in plastic ampoules should be used. The ampoules are labelled "For slow IV or IM injection", but they are suitable for intranasal use.

To give a dose:

- Tear off the plastic top of the midazolam ampoule.
- Position the child on his/her back so the head is up and tilted back.
- Drip the midazolam, 2 to 3 drops at a time, first into one nostril, then into the other nostril until the full dose is given.
- If the seizures do not reduce or cease within 5 minutes call an ambulance.

After giving the dose

- The child should be placed on his/her left side with the right knee and thigh bent. Place the left arm in a comfortable position behind their back.
- Some midazolam may be left in the ampoule. This does not indicate poor use. This is taken into account when the dose is prescribed for your child.

- Discard empty ampoules in the general household rubbish or save for the ambulance. Do not save any excess medication for use at a later date. Once the seal is broken, the contents must be used immediately or thrown away.

Storing the medication

It is important to keep midazolam out of the reach of children, preferably in a locked cupboard or medicine chest.

Keep it in the foil sachet in a cool place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Unopened ampoules will be suitable for use up to 12 months after the foil sachet has been opened if protected from light.

Do not leave midazolam ampoules in the car on a hot day.

Use of other medication

Tell your child's doctor and pharmacist what other medications your child is taking. Check with one of them before giving any new medicines including those you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

