

AUTHORIZED BY: CPC Quality of Care Committee
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CATEGORY: ACP Medications
TITLE: **Midazolam**

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- Other Names:**
- Versed
- Classifications:**
- Benzodiazepine, Sedative, Anesthetic
- Pharmacodynamics:**
- Exhibits an affinity for “benzodiazepine” receptors which act as specific binding sites for gamma aminobutyric acid (GABA), the major inhibitory neurotransmitter in the CNS.
 - As the dose of benzodiazepines is increased, anxiolytic effects are first produced, followed by anticonvulsant effects, a reduction in muscle tonus and finally sedation and hypnosis.
- Onset:**
- IV/IO: 1.5 – 5 minutes
 - IM: 5 to 15 minutes
- Peak:**
- IV/IO: 1.5 – 5 minutes
 - IM: 5 to 15 minutes
- Duration:**
- IV/IO/IM: 1 to 4 hour half-life (approximate)
- Indications:**
- Sedative
 - Amnesic
 - Introduction agent for anesthesia
 - Anticonvulsant
 - Combative patients with no other reversible causes
- Contraindications:**
- Allergy
 - Hypersensitivity to the medication
 - Myasthenia gravis
 - Acute angle-closure glaucoma
- Precautions:**
- Reduce dosage in the elderly, CHF, renal or hepatic function impairment or very ill patients because the elimination half-life is increased
 - Simultaneous use of other CNS depressant drugs
- Adverse Reactions:**
- Increase or decrease in blood pressure, heart rate or respirations
 - Apnea, coughing
 - Headache, drowsiness, excessive sedation
 - Hiccups, nausea, vomiting
 - Muscle stiffness, cool or cold sensation at site of administration
- Drug Interactions:**
- Alcohol, other CNS depressants (narcotics) may increase the sedative effect of benzodiazepines.
- Special Considerations:**
- Respiratory support must be readily available
 - Consideration should be given to informing patient that there may be lack of recall, (i.e. amnesia) for events up to 1 – 2 hrs post injection
 - Death from overdose in the absence of concurrent ingestion of alcohol or other CNS depressants is rare
 - Must be normotensive

- Preparations:**
- 5 mg/ml
 - 1 mg/ml in varying vial volumes

- References:**
- Ontario Provincial ALS Patient Care Standards (ACP), Version 4.5
 - Compendium of Pharmaceutical and Specialties 2013

NOTE: *The information contained herein does not supersede or negate the MoHLTC Provincial Medical Directives and should only serve as general information about the medication itself. For medication dosages, please refer to the current version of the Ontario Provincial ALS Patient Care Standards.*