

### Are there any side effects?

Buccal midazolam is a muscle relaxant and so may slow down a child's breathing and heart rate. It may also make them unsteady on their feet.

Buccal midazolam is also a sedative so can make the child very sleepy but they should be rousable. Occasionally children have become hyperactive or agitated. Rarely children may appear dazed and stare as if hallucinating.

### Where should I keep the buccal midazolam?

Buccal midazolam should be kept at room temperature out of reach of children. Check the expiry date on the bottle before use.

### How can I obtain further supplies of Buccal Midazolam?

Your GP can provide further prescriptions for Buccal Midazolam but please give 2 weeks notice as the medication is ordered from a 'specials manufacturer'.

### What do I do if I would like further information?

For further advice contact:

Liz West, Paediatric Epilepsy Nurse Specialist, or your child's consultant via their secretary

Alternatively, for out of hours advice, weekends etc contact CAU on 023 9228 9944

Liz West  
Paediatric Epilepsy Nurse Specialist  
Paediatric Dept Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Cosham Portsmouth PO6 3LY  
Telephone and answer phone 02392 286156  
Mobile 07770 607490  
Liz.West@porthosp.nhs.uk

## Buccal Midazolam

### Advice for parents and carers



The Paediatric Unit  
Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham  
Tel: (023) 9228 3344

### Specialist Support

If you require this leaflet in another language, large print or another format, please contact the Health Information Centre Tel: (023) 9228 6757, who will advise you.

### **Why has buccal midazolam been prescribed?**

Most seizures in children stop within 5 minutes but occasionally they go on for longer. If a single seizure or group of seizures lasts for more than 30 minutes it is known as 'status epilepticus' and is a medical emergency as it can cause damage to the child if untreated.

We know that the longer a seizure continues the more difficult it is to stop therefore buccal midazolam has been prescribed for you to use at home/school to try to prevent a prolonged seizure.

Buccal Midazolam is available in a user-friendly preparation with a 2-year shelf life.

### **When should buccal midazolam be given?**

Buccal midazolam is usually given 5 minutes after the start of a seizure. The precise timing will depend on your child's age and usual seizure pattern and will be decided by your doctor. You will be given a protocol to follow. It is important that you time the seizure rather than guess how long it has lasted so that you know when to give the buccal midazolam.

Buccal midazolam is intended as an emergency medication only and should not be used more than twice within any 24hour period. You should allow 6 hours between doses.

If you need to use buccal midazolam more than twice during 24hs please telephone your epilepsy nurse specialist or the children's ward for advice.

### **How do I know if the seizure has stopped?**

Following a seizure your child will normally become relaxed and sleepy. Your child may be able to respond to you although they may appear confused. If your child is still stiff or twitchy even though the bigger movements have stopped the seizure may still be continuing.

### **How do I measure the correct dose of buccal midazolam?**

The buccal midazolam will come in a box containing a small bottle and 4 oral syringes. Remove the safety cap by pushing down and twisting the cap anti clockwise. Take a syringe and make sure that the plunger is pressed all the way down to the tip. Push the tip of the syringe into the hole at the top of the bottle. Turn the bottle upside down and draw out the prescribed dose. Turn the bottle upright and remove syringe.

### **How do I give buccal midazolam?**

Try and put your child on their side if on the floor. Gently place the syringe into the side of their mouth between their gum and cheek. Use the side closest to the floor. **Do not place the syringe between their teeth.** Once in, push the plunger slowly to squeeze out the medicine. You may want to give half the amount in one side and the other half in the other side. Hold your child's lips together for a minute or two and massage gently.

Place your child in the recovery position as soon as possible.

### **Does the buccal midazolam work straight away?**

No – it has to be absorbed into the bloodstream and will take between 5 and 8 minutes to work.

### **Do I need to call an ambulance?**

We would advise that you call an ambulance as well as giving buccal midazolam in the following circumstances:

- If it is the first time your child has had buccal midazolam
- If the seizure has not stopped 8 minutes after giving buccal midazolam
- If your child has injured themselves during the seizure
- If your child is having difficulty in breathing

### **Can I give a second dose of buccal midazolam?**

Your doctor will have advised you if you should repeat the dose. For most children a second dose is not recommended and if the seizure is still continuing after 8 minutes, an ambulance should be called.