

SHEFFIELD CHILDREN'S NHS FOUNDATION TRUST BUCCAL MIDAZOLAM – ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Why has buccal midazolam been prescribed?

Most seizures in children stop within 5/10 minutes but occasionally they go on for longer. If a single seizure or group of seizures lasts for 30 minutes or more it is called status epilepticus. Occasionally very prolonged seizures (over 1-2 hours) may be damaging to a child. To try and prevent prolonged seizures buccal midazolam has been prescribed for use at home and where appropriate at school.

When should buccal midazolam be given?

Buccal midazolam is usually given five to ten minutes after the start of the seizure. The precise timing will depend on the child's age and seizure pattern and will be decided by the 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 you know when to use the buccal midazolam. Buccal midazolam is intended to be used as a first aid measure only – do not use more than three times in any 24 hour period. Allow at least six hours between doses.

How do I know when the seizure has stopped?

Following a seizure a child will normally become relaxed and sleepy. He or she may be able to respond to you though they may well 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 the buccal midazolam?

The buccal midazolam will come in a small bottle with four small syringes. Take the bottle and remove the safety cap by pushing it down and turning it anti-clockwise. Take the syringe and make sure the plunger is pushed completely down. Push the tip of the syringe into the hole in the top of the bottle. Turn the bottle upside down and draw out the amount prescribed by your doctor. Turn the bottle upright and remove the syringe.

How do I give buccal midazolam?

Try and put the child on their side. Then gently place the syringe into the space between the child's teeth and their cheek. Use the side closest to the floor. Once in place slowly push the plunger down to squeeze out the medicine. Hold the child's lips together on that side for a minute or two to prevent leakage.

If the child is on their back you can drip a little of the buccal midazolam into each cheek but remember to put the child into the recovery position as soon as you are able to do so.

Does the buccal midazolam work straight away?

No - it will take between five and eight minutes to work because it has to be absorbed into the bloodstream.

Do I still need to call an ambulance?

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

- **if it is the first time the child has had buccal midazolam;**
- **if the seizure has not stopped 8 minutes after using buccal midazolam;**
- **if you think the child may have suffered a head injury during the seizure;**
- **if the child appears to be having trouble breathing.**

Can I give a second dose of buccal midazolam if the first dose does not work?

We do not advise that you repeat the dose of buccal midazolam.

Are there any side effects?

Buccal midazolam may slowdown a child's breathing; if the child has a severe chest infection or other breathing problems an ambulance should be called as well as giving buccal midazolam. Buccal midazolam can make a child sleepy, although very occasionally they may become hyper active instead. A small number of children may appear dazed and stare as if hallucinating following buccal midazolam.

Where should I keep the buccal midazolam?

Buccal midazolam should be stored at room temperature and out of the reach of children. Check the expiry date before using.

What do I do if I would like further information?

For further advice contact the Epilepsy Nurses at The Ryegate Children's Centre Telephone 0114 271 7621 or 0114 271 7620

This information has been reviewed and updated by:

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BUCCAL MIDAZOLAM ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

For Further advice contact:

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