



Using Buccal Midazolam for fits in Palliative Care

Information for patients & carers

Patient's name

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REMEMBER YOU CAN CALL THE GOLD LINE FOR
SUPPORT AT ALL TIMES
01535 292768

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Introduction

This leaflet provides an overview of first aid steps and the use of buccal midazolam following a seizure (fit).

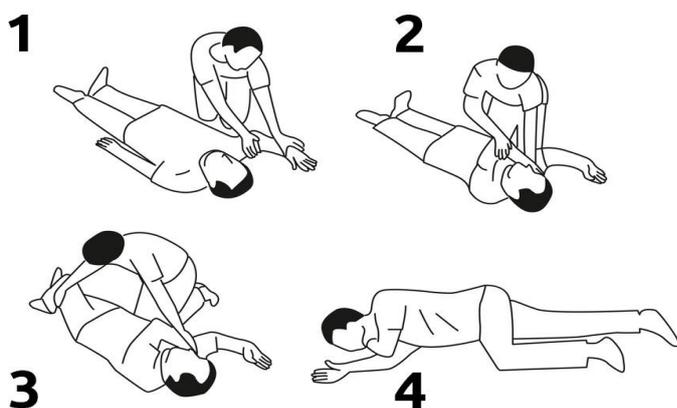
More detailed information about buccal midazolam is provided in the patient information leaflet supplied in the box.

What is buccal midazolam?

It is a fast acting sedative medication and also acts to stop seizures (fits), it is designed to be given between the gums and cheek and gets into the bloodstream that way. It is commonly used by injection for a number of purposes, including help with muscle spasms, in the control and prevention of fits and to help patients who are agitated or distressed and can't swallow sedative tablets. It is absorbed into the blood stream by placing the drug between gums and cheek (buccal route).

First aid instructions if a seizure (fit) occurs:

- Cushion the person's head
- **NEVER** put anything in their mouth
- Do not restrict their movements
- Remove harmful objects from nearby
- Do not move them, unless in danger
- Once it is over, place in the recovery position (see picture below)
- Stay with the person until fully recovered



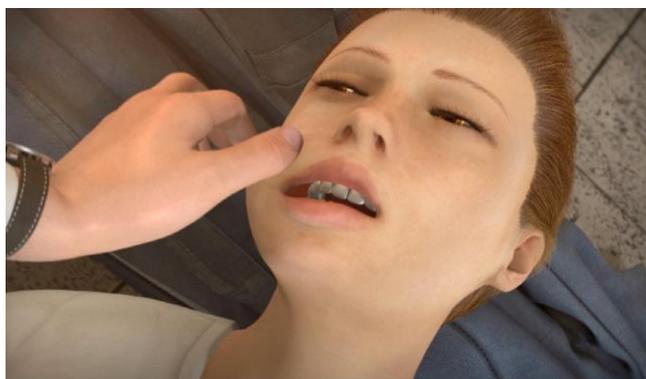
Many seizures will stop on their own within 5 minutes.

If a seizure continues longer than 5 minutes, buccal midazolam should be given.

For more information on first aid / seizures see: www.epilepsy.org.uk

How to use:

1. Remove the cap from the syringe containing the medicine
2. The full amount of solution should be inserted slowly into the space between the gum and the cheek (as shown in the pictures below)



3. The usual adult dose is 10mg. The dose is written on the syringe
4. Give approximately half the dose, slowly into one side of the mouth, and then give the remainder slowly into the other side.
5. The dose must not be administered below the tongue since the teeth may clamp shut and break the syringe in the mouth.
6. In some situations, it may be possible to administer a second dose if symptoms persist after the first dose, but ring Gold Line or your GP for advice before doing this.
7. The patient should lie down for at least one hour after administration.
8. Dispose of the syringe in your sharps bin if you have one (use your usual bin if not)

How quickly does buccal midazolam work?

Buccal midazolam takes 5 - 10 minutes to work and most people will sleep after the seizure has finished. They should remain on their side during this time. If you are concerned about anything or the patient is not waking up after 1-2 hours call for advice from Gold Line or your GP.

How often can I use it?

Do not use buccal midazolam more than twice in any 24 hour period. Allow at least 6 hours before giving a second dose unless instructed to do so by a health care professional.

Do I need to call for help?

- You can call Gold Line for support at any time
- Call an ambulance if the person appears to have difficulty breathing or stops breathing or is still fitting 10 minutes after giving the buccal midazolam

What are the main side-effects from midazolam?

- Drowsiness and sedation (may persist for several hours after use)
- Occasionally midazolam can slow breathing. If you are worried about anything, you can speak to Gold Line or in an emergency call 999 for an ambulance to visit. Ask the ambulance to contact Gold Line when they are at the house
- For more information please refer to the product details in the box

Other warnings:

- Keep out of the reach of children
- Keep the syringe in the protective plastic tube until use
- Check the expiry date before giving
- Store at room temperature only
- Your GP can issue further supplies if needed. Do not leave it too late to request a prescription. It is important that you have access to a supply at all times