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DIAZEPAM

Additional information: interactions ([Diazepam](#)).

Indications: short-term use in anxiety or insomnia, adjunct in acute alcohol withdrawal; status epilepticus ([section 4.8.2](#)); febrile convulsions ([section 4.8.3](#)); muscle spasm ([section 10.2.2](#)); peri-operative use ([section 15.1.4.1](#))

Cautions: respiratory disease, muscle weakness, history of drug or alcohol abuse, marked personality disorder, pregnancy ([Appendix 4](#)), breast-feeding ([Appendix 5](#)); reduce dose in elderly and debilitated, and in hepatic impairment (avoid if severe; [Appendix 2](#)), renal impairment ([Appendix 3](#)); avoid prolonged use (and abrupt withdrawal thereafter); special precautions for intravenous injection ([section 4.8.2](#)); porphyria ([section 9.8.2](#)); **interactions:** Appendix 1 (anxiolytics and hypnotics)

DRIVING. Drowsiness may affect performance of skilled tasks (e.g. driving); effects of alcohol enhanced

Contra-indications: respiratory depression; acute pulmonary insufficiency; sleep apnoea syndrome; severe hepatic impairment; not for chronic psychosis; should not be used alone in depression or in anxiety with depression; avoid injections containing benzyl alcohol in neonates (see under preparations below)

Side-effects: drowsiness and lightheadedness the next day; confusion and ataxia (especially in the elderly); amnesia; dependence; paradoxical increase in aggression (see also [section 4.1](#)); muscle weakness; *occasionally:* headache, vertigo, hypotension, salivation changes, gastro-intestinal disturbances, visual disturbances, dysarthria, tremor, changes in libido, incontinence, urinary retention; blood disorders and jaundice reported; skin reactions; on intravenous injection, pain, thrombophlebitis, and rarely apnoea; **overdosage:** see [Emergency Treatment of Poisoning](#),

Dose: *by mouth*, anxiety, 2 mg 3 times daily increased if necessary to 15–30 mg daily in divided doses; ELDERLY (or debilitated) half adult dose

Insomnia associated with anxiety, 5–15 mg at bedtime

CHILD night terrors and somnambulism, 1–5 mg at bedtime

By intramuscular injection or slow intravenous injection (into a large vein, at a rate of not more than 5 mg/minute), for severe acute anxiety, control of acute panic attacks, and acute alcohol withdrawal, 10 mg, repeated if necessary after not less than 4 hours

Note. Only use intramuscular route when oral and intravenous routes not possible; special precautions for intravenous injection see [section 4.8.2](#)

By intravenous infusion—[section 4.8.2](#)

By rectum as rectal solution, acute anxiety and agitation, 500 micrograms/kg repeated after 12 hours as required; ELDERLY 250 micrograms/kg; CHILD not recommended

CHILD febrile convulsions, see [section 4.8.3](#)

By rectum as suppositories, anxiety when oral route not appropriate, 10–30 mg (higher dose divided); dose form not appropriate for less than 10 mg

Sub-sections

[Diazepam](#)