Buccal Midazolam

Exceptional healthcare, personally delivered
Introduction
This leaflet has been given to you because your child has been prescribed buccal midazolam. It will advise you when and how to administer the medication.

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 (Epistatus®) has been prescribed for use at home and where appropriate at school.

When Should Buccal Midazolam Be Given?
Buccal midazolam is most commonly given 5 minutes after the start of a tonic clonic seizure.
The precise timing will depend on the child’s age and seizure pattern and will be decided by the doctor.
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.

What To Do If Your Child Has A Tonic Clonic Seizure
Take a note of the time that the seizure started.
Ensure the child is safe, only move if in danger.
Clear the area of possible risks.
Cushion their head.
Do not try and restrain movements or put anything between their teeth.

If someone is with you ask them to get the buccal midazolam for you.

If on your own, once the child is safe you will need to leave the child and get the buccal midazolam.

Administer the buccal midazolam if seizure is still continuing after 5 minutes or according to the doctor’s instructions.

Position the child on their side following the seizure.
Stay with the child until they have recovered.

Call ambulance at any time if worried, or as described on page 5.

How to Measure the Correct Dose
Buccal midazolam comes in a small bottle containing 5 ml of midazolam with 4 syringes. (1 ml contains 10 mg)

- Check the expiry date.
- Open bottle and insert syringe firmly into the bung on top of the bottle.
- Holding the bottle tip it upside down.
- When you first draw up the midazolam there may be air bubbles, so return the midazolam back into the bottle.
- Pull back on the syringe plunger again until you have withdrawn the prescribed amount.
- Turn bottle upright and remove syringe.
Buccal midazolam is a clear liquid, do not give if it is cloudy, call for an ambulance instead.

Put lid back on bottle immediately to prevent medicine evaporating.

**How to Give Buccal Midazolam**

- Wipe away any excess saliva with a tissue
- Open mouth, but there is no need to part the teeth.
- Ideally administer half of the midazolam into each buccal cavity, which is between the lower gum and the cheek in the mouth.
- If the child is on their side administer entire dose into the cheek closest to the floor.
- Remove syringe. Hold lips together for 1 minute if necessary, to prevent leakage.
- The buccal midazolam should take 5-10 minutes to have effect
- Position child on their side following the seizure
- Someone should stay with the child until fully recovered, unless you are required to leave to get help.
- Dispose of syringe carefully. It can be put in with general waste.
When to Call an Ambulance

It is advisable to call an ambulance as well as giving buccal midazolam in any of the following circumstances:

- If your child is being given buccal midazolam for the first time.
- If the seizure has not stopped 5-10 minutes after using buccal midazolam.
- If you think the child may have suffered any serious injury during the seizure.
- If you are worried at any time about the child’s breathing.

In general, it is not advisable to administer a second dose of buccal midazolam as it may cause the child to stop breathing, but in some circumstances your doctor may advise this. The paramedics may also feel it is necessary to administer a second dose if seizure is still continuing when they arrive.

Side Effects

Buccal midazolam will slow down the child’s breathing so the child needs to be observed closely following administration. If there are any concerns regarding the child’s breathing an ambulance should be called.

As it is a sedative drug the child is likely to feel sleepy afterwards and may be confused, disorientated or anxious. Stay with the child until fully recovered and reassure them about what has happened.
Where Should It Be Stored

Buccal midazolam should be stored at room temperature, away from bright light, direct sunlight or heat.

Keep out of reach of children.

Remember to take it with you whenever you go out, even if it is just a short trip to the shops.

Do not use past the expiry date or 2 years after it has been opened. It is a good idea to write on the bottle when it was first opened. Return any unused buccal midazolam to a pharmacy for safe disposal.
References and sources of further information

The National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy
www.ncype.org.uk (Accessed Jan 09)

Epilepsy Action
Freephone Helpline 0808 800 5050
www.epilepsy.org.uk (Accessed Jan 09)

The National Society of Epilepsy
www.epilepsynse.org.uk (Accessed Jan 09)


Special Products Ltd. Manufacturer of buccal midazolam. (Epistatus®) Orion House, 49 High St, Addlestone,


A DVD is available on administration of buccal midazolam. Call the number on the back of this leaflet if you would like a copy.
If you or the individual you are caring for need support reading this leaflet please ask a member of staff for advice.