

DiazePAM

Classification

 **HIGH ALERT MEDICATION**

CONTROLLED AND TARGETED SUBSTANCE

Benzodiazepine anticonvulsant, sedative, anxiolytic, and amnesic

Indications

- CCP: Treatment of prolonged seizures (> 5 minutes) or recurrent seizures
- CCP: Sedation prior to electrical therapies (e.g., synchronized cardioversion, external cardiac pacing)

Contraindications

- Allergy or known hypersensitivity to benzodiazepines
- Acute narrow-angle glaucoma
- Myasthenia gravis
- Hypoglycemic seizures

Adult dosages

- CCP: Status seizures
 - 5 mg IV over 5 minutes
 - May repeat once if needed for ongoing seizures
- CCP: Sedation
 - 2-5 mg IV, in increments. Give slowly to a maximum total dose of 30 mg

Pediatric Considerations And Dosing

[Follow weight-based dosing](#)

- CCP: All indications
 - 2 mg/kg IV, PR, or IO
 - Maximum total dose 20 mg

Mechanism Of Action

Binds to receptor sites in the central nervous system, promoting interaction between gamma aminobutyric acid (GABA) and its receptors on neurons, which become permeable to chloride. An influx of chloride makes the interior of the cell more negative, and the cell takes longer to depolarize, suppressing the spread of seizure activity and raising the seizure threshold.

Pharmacokinetics

Intravenous:

- Onset: 1-5 minutes
- Peak: 15 minutes
- Half-life: 20-50 hours

- Duration: 15-60 minutes

Adverse Effects

May cause hypotension. Benzodiazepines as a class inhibit neuronal uptake of adenosine, which may result in peripheral vasodilation.

DiazePAM may depress respirations.

Overdose

Overdose management generally requires supportive care only. Provide appropriate airway management, ensure adequate oxygenation and ventilation, and support blood pressure as required.

Warning And Precautions

May precipitate when diluted with other solutions. Do not dilute or mix with any other material, including saline.

Exercise caution in patients who have consumed alcohol or other intoxicants.

Drug Interactions

There is an increased risk of toxicity in patients taking cimetidine, suifiram, and oral contraceptives. Diazepam's effectiveness is decreased when given to patients taking ranitidine or theophylline.

