

Medication: Diazepam	PDN: 6918.03	Last Updated: June 20 2018	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Tanya Fraser*	Page 1 of 2
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DIAZEPAM (Valium)

1.0 Classification

- Benzodiazepine

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Diazepam is a sedative-hypnotic agent that causes CNS depression and relaxation of skeletal muscle

3.0 Indications

- Actively seizing patient
- For sedation after ETI
- Acute alcohol withdrawal (moderate to severe): patient exhibiting tremors, tachycardia, diaphoresis and/or delirium tremens

4.0 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to diazepam
- Hypotension (BP less than 100)
- Acute narrow (closed) angle glaucoma

5.0 Precautions

- Diazepam is incompatible with many medications
- Use the minimal dose possible for patients with CHF/pulmonary edema or head injured patients who have normal or low BP

6.0 Route

- May be given IV/IO or PR

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- Actively seizing: 5 mg IV slow push; repeat immediately x 1 if required (maximum total dose of 10 mg)
- For sedation: 2.5-5.0 mg IV push as required (maximum total dose of 10 mg)
- Acute alcohol withdrawal (moderate/severe): 5 mg IV slow push; repeat immediately x 1 if required (maximum total dose of 10mg)

Pediatric

- 0.2 mg/kg IV over 1 minute or 0.5 mg/kg PR to a maximum of 5 mg; both can be repeated immediately as needed (maximum total dose of 10mg)

8.0 Supplied

- 2 mL vial of 5 mg/mL

9.0 May Be Given By

- For seizures: ICP/ACP/CCP
- For sedation post ETI: ICP/ACP/CCP
- For acute alcohol withdrawal: ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse Effects

- Respiratory depression
- Loss of airway protective reflexes

11.0 Special Notes

- The effects of diazepam can be accentuated by CNS depressants such as narcotics and alcohol
- The Clinical Support Paramedic must be contacted prior to giving benzodiazepines in conjunction with narcotics to the same patient
- Pregnancy category D [potential benefits may warrant use of the drug in pregnant women despite potential risks (e.g. if it is required in a life-threatening situation)]

12.0 References

- Adult Airway Management Clinical Practice Guideline
- Adult Cardiac Arrhythmia Clinical Practice Guideline
- Altered Level of Consciousness Clinical Practice Guideline
- Mental Health Emergencies Clinical Practice Guideline
- Pain Management Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed

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