

Administration of Buccal Midazolam to Children

This information explains about **Buccal Midazolam**, how it is given and some of its possible side effects.

What is Midazolam?

Midazolam belongs to a group of medicines called benzodiazepines, which are used to treat a number of different conditions, including status epilepticus and febrile seizures. If a seizure lasts for more than five minutes, it may be difficult to stop unless treatment is given. It is therefore important that rapid treatment is given to stop the seizures and therefore prevent status epilepticus, if the individual has epilepsy.

Buccal midazolam is available in various forms as follows:

- As a sugar-free buccal liquid called Epistatus® with a strength of 10mg in 1ml. There are four 10mg doses in each bottle and four syringes are provided.
- In prefilled oral syringes containing different doses. You will be given the appropriate dosage of syringe for your child.
- Please note that other brands and preparations are available in different strengths.

Your local medical team will train you how to prepare and give buccal midazolam and provide you with an epilepsy care plan containing the protocol for when buccal midazolam should be administered.

Always check the dose and expiry date before use.

If buccal midazolam does not control the seizure within five minutes, follow the advice given by your doctor or call 999 for an ambulance.

If you cannot give buccal midazolam for any reason, give first aid and call 999 for an ambulance.

How to give Midazolam

Midazolam is given via the buccal route, which is where the medicine is placed against the sides of the gums and cheek. It is absorbed into the bloodstream via capillaries in the buccal cavity.

Give the medicine slowly as your child could choke or swallow it if given too quickly. If a small amount is swallowed, it will cause no harm, but it may take longer to work, seizures usually stop within 5 minutes of administering the dose.

Always call an ambulance for the first time buccal midazolam is administered.

If buccal midazolam does not control the seizure within five minutes, call 999 for an ambulance.

Using Epistatus®

Epistatus Midazolam Buccal Liquid



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You will need the following equipment:

- Bottle of Epistatus®
- Oral syringe provided
- Check that the liquid is clear with no crystals visible. Discard if you can see crystals.
- Unscrew the bottle cap, keeping the bottle upright.
- Insert a syringe into the centre of the stopper.
- Turn the bottle upside down.
- Pull the plunger of the syringe back slowly and then push back to expel any air bubbles.
- Pull the plunger back again slowly and draw up the prescribed amount of liquid.
- Turn the bottle the right way up before removing the syringe.
- Put the cap back on the bottle to stop spillages.



Using a Prefilled syringe

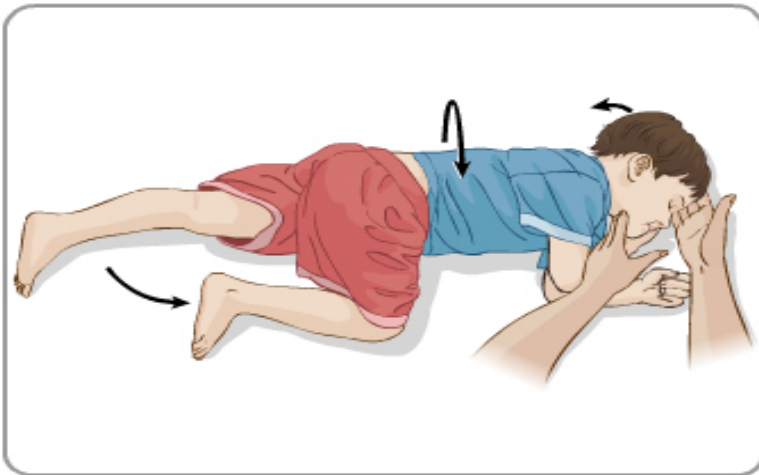
- Ensure seal on prefilled syringe is not broken- remove from container
- Remove red top of prefilled syringe and dispose of safely

For both methods, procedure is the same from here:

- Gently open the child's mouth and insert the syringe inside the gum, between the teeth
- and inside of cheek – buccal cavity/mucosa - there is no need to part the teeth



- Slowly push the plunger to administer. If possible, divide the dose so you give approximately half into one cheek and the remaining half into the other cheek - ensure the syringe is empty
- If the midazolam goes into the centre of the mouth and gets swallowed it will take longer to be absorbed but will not cause any harm
- Note the time the midazolam was given, and confirm that the seizure has stopped
- Watch for any breathing difficulties.
- Dispose of the syringe safely.
- Inform ambulance crew that midazolam has been administered – give them the empty packaging so that they know what dose has been given
- Place child in recovery position to maintain their airway



After giving buccal Midazolam remember:

- Continue to monitor the child / young person to make sure they are recovering.
- The child / young person is likely to feel
 - Sleepy, confused, disorientated and anxious – they should be allowed to rest somewhere comfortable and remember to talk to them reassuringly about what has happened, where they are and that you are keeping them safe.
 - Amnesia – short term memory loss is common and the child / young person may not remember having had a seizure.
- An effect on breathing is unlikely to occur if Midazolam is used as prescribed. If breathing difficulties do occur, seek medical help immediately. Place in recovery position to maintain airway
- Record the date, time and dose of medication given, and details of what you observed during the seizure, for the doctor to monitor the person's progress and treatment.
- Only give the medicine as prescribed by your doctor.

Your child may also have been prescribed rectal diazepam. Remember that **either** buccal Midazolam or rectal diazepam can be given to stop a seizure as directed by your doctor.

If your child stops using Midazolam or it passes its expiry date, please return it to your pharmacist. Do not flush it down the toilet or throw it away.

Keep Midazolam in a safe place where children cannot see it or reach it.

Keep Midazolam at room temperature (not in a fridge), away from bright light or direct sunlight and away from heat.

Always check you have enough medicine and remember to order a new prescription in plenty of time.

Sources of information

This information should be read in conjunction with any patient information leaflet provided by the manufacturer.

Great Ormond Street Hospital (2004) Buccal Midazolam Factsheet.

National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Clinical Practice Guideline 20 (2012) The epilepsies: the diagnosis and management of the epilepsies in adults and children in primary and secondary care.

Important information

This patient information is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: (01323) 417400 Ext: 5860 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: (01424) 755255 Ext: 2620

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

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(for children with a diagnosis of epilepsy)

Reference

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Women's and Children's Clinical Unit.

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