

- **Dosage Information**

- Intra-nasal or buccal

- Age range: 1 – 18 years.

- Premedication dose: 2 microgram/kg/dose (Range 1 - 4 microgram/kg/dose, maximum 200 micrograms)<sup>6</sup>.

- **Administration**

- Intra-nasal

- First line route of administration is intranasal, using the MAD Nasal <sup>TM</sup> device (see Appendix 1)
    - Time of Onset: 25 minutes after administration
    - Duration of Action: 40-135 minutes (depending on dose used)

- Use the buccal route if intranasal not possible<sup>6</sup>.

- **Contraindications**

- Advance heart block (Grade 2 or 3 unless paced)
    - Patients with significant impaired ventricular function or cardiovascular instability
    - Patients on digoxin
    - Uncontrolled hypertension
    - Acute cerebrovascular conditions
    - Severe hepatic failure

- **Monitoring of the patient**

- Following administration of the dexmedetomidine, the child should remain in their bed before going to theatre, and should be observed by a responsible adult (parent/ carer/ staff).

- **Co-premedication with midazolam**

- This is at the discretion of the consultant anaesthetist.

- **Side effects**

- Bradycardia
    - Dose dependent reduction in gastrointestinal tract transit times (less than morphine)
    - Diminished shivering
    - Potential for hypoglycaemia.

- **Overdose**

- Overdose has been described and is associated with transient hypertension and prolonged sedation, but notably without respiratory depression<sup>4</sup>.