

LORAZEPAM

Lorazepam is a longer acting benzodiazepine (GABA receptors) with hypnotic and anxiolytic properties but no analgesic properties. It is a particularly potent amnesic drug. It causes little or mild cardiovascular and respiratory depression in appropriate doses. It has no active metabolites and its metabolism is little affected by organ dysfunction, but it has a long half-life (10-20 hours). It is usually given by intermittent bolus injection. Lorazepam can promote delirium, but is a potent anticonvulsant for use in seizures.

LORAZEPAM			
RECEPTOR TYPE	Gaba Receptors	α 2-Receptors	Opioid Receptors
Receptor type	✓		
ONSET	Rapid (< 1 minute)	Intermediate (1-3 minutes)	Slow (> 3 minutes)
Rate of Onset			✓
Rate of Offset			✓
EFFECT	Strong	Weak	None
Sedative effect (hypnosis and anxiolysis)	✓		
Amnesic effect	✓		
Analgesic effect			✓
RISKS	None	Lower Risk	Higher Risk
Cardiovascular effects (low pulse and/or blood pressure)		✓	
Respiratory depression		✓	
Potential to cause delirium			✓
Active metabolites and/or accumulation	✓		
Potential toxic effects		✓	
COST	Low	Intermediate	High
Cost	✓		