



## 12. DIAZEPAM (VALIUM)

### a) Pharmacology

- (1) Sedation, hypnosis, alleviation of anxiety, muscle relaxation, anticonvulsant activity
- (2) Little cardiovascular effect

### b) Pharmacokinetics

- (1) Onset of action is extremely rapid following IV administration.
- (2) Half-life ranges from 20–90 minutes.

### c) Indications

- (1) Sustained and/or recurrent seizures
- (2) Severe nerve agent exposure

### d) Contraindications

- (1) Known hypersensitivity, head injury
- (2) Should be used with caution in patients with altered mental status, hypotension, or acute narrow angle glaucoma

### e) Adverse Effects

- (1) Lightheadedness, motor impairment, ataxia, impairment of mental and psychomotor function, confusion, slurred speech, amnesia
- (2) Additive effect with ethanol
- (3) Irritability and excitation may be seen paradoxically.

### f) Precautions

- (1) Respiratory depression may occur with IV administration, especially if given too rapidly.
- (2) Respiratory support may be required.
- (3) Use with caution in pregnant patients, persons ingesting alcohol, or persons ingesting sedatives.

### g) Dosage (paramedic may perform without consult for patients with active seizures if midazolam is not available.)

- (1) Adult: Administer 2.5–10 mg in 2.5 mg increments SLOW IVP/IM (IM requires all providers to obtain medical consultation.)  
Maximum total dose 10 mg
- (2) Pediatric: Administer 0.1 mg/kg in 2.5 mg increments SLOW IVP/IO/IM (IM requires all providers to obtain medical consultation.)  
Maximum total dose 5 mg  
Rectal Dose: Administer up to 0.2 mg/kg; maximum total dose 10 mg

Severe nerve agent exposure (providers may administer without consult):

- (3) Adult: Administer 10 mg IM.
- (4) Pediatric: greater than 30 kg: Administer 10 mg via auto-injector or 0.1 mg/kg IM, maximum of 10 mg.