

MHS MRG 06 - Use of Intramuscular midazolam for Acutely Disturbed Behaviour

Midazolam is an alternative intramuscular benzodiazepine that may be used for managing acutely disturbed behaviour in the event of a shortage of intramuscular lorazepam. It has a rapid onset and brief effect. Following ongoing shortages with intramuscular lorazepam over a number of years, the use of midazolam for this indication has become more widespread within mental health services and is recommended as a treatment option within current NHS GG&C guidance on managing acutely disturbed behaviour. ¹

Key prescribing information for intramuscular midazolam	
Dose	5 - 7.5mg by deep IM injection repeated after 2 hours
Maximum dose	15mg/ 24 hours
Dosing in special circumstance	¼- ½ adult dose In elderly (>60), physically ill or debilitated patients, individuals with renal, hepatic or cardiac function or chronic respiratory insufficiency
Pharmacokinetics ²	Absorption after IM injection is rapid and complete Maximum plasma concentration in 30 minutes Elimination half life - 1.5-2 .5 hours (In adults over 60 years of age, the elimination half-life may be prolonged up to four times)
Monitoring	Monitor for excessive sedation, respiratory depression, hypotension for at least 4 hours after last dose
Preparation	10mg/2ml ampoules should be used for this indication
Storage	Midazolam 10mg/2ml is a controlled drug (CD). It must be ordered in the ward CD order book, stored in CD cupboard and receipt/administration recorded in the CD register.
Administration	No dilution of ampoule required
Cautions	IM midazolam may be painful Do not give IM midazolam within 1 hour of IM olanzapine ³ IM flumazenil should always be available when administering IM benzodiazepines

References:

1. NHS GG&C Clinical Guideline. Guideline for use of Intramuscular medication for Acutely Disturbed Behaviours in MHS. MHS 40. October 2018
2. Hypnovel 10mg/2ml injection Summary of Product Characteristics. Last updated 6th December 2019. <https://www.medicines.org.uk>. Accessed online 9/6/20
3. Zyprexa 10mg Powder for solution for injection- Package leaflet. Eli Lilly and Company. Last revised August 2019.