

Summary of Product Characteristics

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Midazolam Injection BP 5 mg/ml solution for injection or infusion

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each 1 ml contains 5 mg midazolam as the hydrochloride.
Each 2 ml contains 10 mg midazolam as the hydrochloride.
Each 3 ml contains 15 mg midazolam as the hydrochloride.
Each 5 ml contains 25 mg midazolam as the hydrochloride.
Each 10 ml contains 50 mg midazolam as the hydrochloride.

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection or infusion
Clear, colourless or slightly yellow solution.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

Midazolam Injection BP 5 mg/ml is a short-acting sedative and sleep-inducing drug. The indications are as follows:

In adults and children

- Conscious sedation before and during diagnostic or therapeutic procedures with or without local anaesthesia,
- Premedication before induction of anaesthesia,
- Sedation in Intensive Care Units.

In adults

- Induction of anaesthesia,
- As an induction agent or as a sedative component in combined anaesthesia.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Midazolam is a potent sedative that requires dose titration and slow administration. Dose titration is required to optimise safety whilst achieving the desired level of sedation according to the clinical need, physical status, age and concomitant medication.

In adults over 60 years, debilitated or chronically ill patients and paediatric patients, the dose should be determined with caution and risk factors related to each patient should be taken into account. Standard dosages are shown in the table below; additional details are provided in the text following the table.

STANDARD DOSAGE

Indication	Adults < 60 y	Adults ≥ 60 y / debilitated or chronically ill	Children
Conscious sedation	IV Initial dose: 2 - 2.5mg Titration doses: 1mg Total dose: 3.5 - 7.5mg	IV Initial dose: 0.5 - 1mg Titration doses: 0.5 - 1mg Total dose: < 3.5mg	IV in patients 6 months - 5 years Initial dose: 0.05 - 0.1mg/kg Total dose: < 6mg IV in patients 6-12 years Initial dose: 0.025 - 0.05mg/kg Total dose: < 10mg rectal > 6 months 0.3 - 0.5mg/kg IM 1 - 15 years 0.05 - 0.15mg/kg
Anaesthesia premedication	IM 0.07 - 0.1mg/kg	IM 0.025 - 0.05mg/kg	rectal > 6 months 0.3 - 0.5mg/kg IM 1 - 15 years 0.08 - 0.2mg/kg
Anaesthesia induction	IV 0.15 - 0.2mg/kg (0.3 - 0.35mg/kg without premedication)	IV 0.1 - 0.2mg/kg (0.15 - 0.3mg/kg without premedication)	
Sedative component in combined anaesthesia	IV intermittent doses of 0.03 - 0.1mg/kg or continuous infusion of 0.03 - 0.1mg/kg/h	IV lower doses than recommended for adults < 60 years	
Sedation in ICU	IV Loading dose: 0.03 - 0.3mg/kg in increments of 1 – 2.5mg Maintenance dose: 0.03 - 0.2mg/kg/h		IV in neonates < 32 weeks gestational age 0.03mg/kg/h IV in neonates > 32 weeks and children up to 6 months 0.06mg/kg/h IV in patients > 6 months of age Loading dose: 0.05 - 0.2mg/kg Maintenance dose: 0.06 - 0.12mg/kg/h

Conscious sedation dosage

For conscious sedation prior to diagnostic or surgical intervention, midazolam may be administered IV. The dose must be individualised and titrated, and should not be administered by rapid or single bolus injection. The onset of action is about 2 minutes after the injection. Maximum effect is obtained in about 5 to 10 minutes. However, the onset of sedation may vary individually depending on the physical status of the patient and the detailed circumstances of dosing (e.g. speed of administration, amount of dose). If necessary, subsequent doses may be administered according to the individual need.

Adults

The IV injection of midazolam should be given slowly at a rate of approximately 1mg in 30 seconds. In adults below the age of 60 the initial dose is 2 to 2.5mg given 5 to 10 minutes before the beginning of the procedure. Further doses of 1mg may be given as necessary. Mean total doses have been found to range from 3.5 to 7.5mg. A total dose greater than 5mg is usually not necessary. In adults over 60 years of age, debilitated or chronically ill patients, the initial dose is 0.5 to 1mg. Further doses of 0.5 to 1mg may be given as necessary. A total dose greater than 3.5mg is usually not necessary.

Children

IV administration: midazolam should be titrated slowly to the desired clinical effect. The initial dose of midazolam should be administered over 2 to 3 minutes. An additional interval of 2 to 5 minutes must be allowed to fully evaluate the sedative effect before initiating a procedure or repeating a dose. If further sedation is necessary, titration with small increments should be continued until the appropriate level of sedation is achieved. Infants and children less than 5 years of age may require substantially higher doses (mg/kg) than older children and adolescents.

- Paediatric patients less than 6 months of age are particularly vulnerable to airway obstruction and hypoventilation. For this reason, use in conscious sedation in children less than 6 months of age is not recommended.

- Paediatric patients 6 months to 5 years of age: initial dose 0.05 to 0.1mg/kg. A total dose up to 0.6mg/kg may be necessary to reach the desired level of sedation, but the total dose should not exceed 6mg. Prolonged sedation and risk of hypoventilation may be associated with the higher doses.

- Paediatric patients 6 to 12 years of age: initial dose 0.025 to 0.05mg/kg. A total dose of up to 0.4mg/kg to a maximum of 10mg may be necessary. Prolonged sedation and risk of hypoventilation may be associated with the higher doses.

- Paediatric patients 12 to 16 years of age: should be dosed as adults.

Rectal administration: the total dose of midazolam usually ranges from 0.3 to 0.5mg/kg. Rectal administration of the ampoule solution is performed by means of a plastic applicator fixed on the end of the syringe. If the volume to be administered is too small, water may be added up to a total volume of 10ml. The total dose should be administered at once and repeated rectal administration avoided.

The use in children less than 6 months of age is not recommended, as available data in this population are limited.

IM administration: the doses used range between 0.05 and 0.15mg/kg. A total dose greater than 10.0mg is usually not necessary. The IM route should only be used in exceptional cases. Rectal administration is preferred as IM injection is painful.

In children less than 15kg of body weight, midazolam solutions with concentrations higher than 1mg/ml are not recommended. Higher concentrations should be diluted to 1mg/ml.

ANAESTHESIA DOSAGE**Premedication**

Premedication with midazolam given shortly before a procedure produces sedation (sleepiness or drowsiness and relief of apprehension) and pre-operative impairment of memory. Midazolam can also be administered in combination with anticholinergics. For this indication midazolam should be administered IM, deep into a large muscle mass 20 to 60 minutes before induction of anaesthesia, or preferably via the rectal route in children (see below). Adequate observation of the patient after administration of premedication is mandatory as inter-individual sensitivity varies and symptoms of overdose may occur.

Adults

For pre-operative sedation and to impair memory of pre-operative events, the recommended dose for adults of ASA Physical Status I & II and below 60 years is 0.07 to 0.1mg/kg administered IM. The dose must be reduced and

individualised when midazolam is administered to adults over 60 years of age, debilitated, or chronically ill patients. A dose of 0.025 to 0.05mg/kg administered IM is recommended. The usual dose is 2 to 3mg.

Children

Rectal administration: the total dose of midazolam, usually ranging from 0.3 to 0.5mg/kg should be administered 15 to 30 minutes before induction of anaesthesia. Rectal administration of the ampoule solution is performed by means of a plastic applicator fixed on the end of the syringe. If the volume to be administered is too small, water may be added up to a total volume of 10ml.

IM administration: as IM injection is painful, this route should only be used in exceptional cases. Rectal administration is preferred. However, a dose range from 0.08 to 0.2mg/kg of midazolam administered IM has been shown to be effective and safe. In children between ages 1 and 15 years, proportionally higher doses are required than in adults in relation to body-weight.

The use in children less than 6 months of age is not recommended as available data are limited.

In children less than 15kg of body weight, midazolam solutions with concentrations higher than 1mg/ml are not recommended. Higher concentrations should be diluted to 1mg/ml.

Induction

Adults

When midazolam is used for induction of anaesthesia before other anaesthetic agents have been administered, the individual response is variable. The dose should be titrated to the desired effect according to the patient's age and clinical status. When midazolam is used before or in combination with other IV or inhalation agents for induction of anaesthesia, the initial dose of each agent should be significantly reduced. The desired level of anaesthesia is reached by stepwise titration. The IV induction dose of midazolam should be given slowly in increments. Each increment of not more than 5mg should be injected over 20 to 30 seconds allowing 2 minutes between successive increments.

- In adults below the age of 60 years, an IV dose of 0.15 to 0.2mg/kg will usually suffice. In non-premedicated adults below the age of 60 the dose may be higher (0.3 to 0.35mg/kg IV). If needed to complete induction, increments of approximately 25% of the patient's initial dose may be used. Induction may instead be completed with inhalational anaesthetics. In resistant cases, a total dose of up to 0.6mg/kg may be used for induction, but such larger doses may prolong recovery.
- In adults over 60 years of age, debilitated or chronically ill patients, the dose is 0.1 to 0.2mg/kg administered IV. Non-premedicated adults over 60 years of age usually require more midazolam for induction; an initial dose of 0.15 to 0.3mg/kg is recommended. Non-premedicated patients with severe systemic disease or other debilitation usually require less midazolam for induction. An initial dose of 0.15 to 0.25mg/kg will usually suffice.

Sedative component in combined anaesthesia

Adults

Midazolam can be given as a sedative component in combined anaesthesia by either further intermittent small IV doses (range between 0.03 and 0.1mg/kg) or continuous infusion of IV midazolam (range between 0.03 and 0.1mg/kg/h) typically in combination with analgesics. The dose and the intervals between doses vary according to the patient's individual reaction.

In adults over 60 years of age, debilitated or chronically ill patients, lower maintenance doses will be required.

Sedation in intensive care units

The desired level of sedation is reached by stepwise titration of midazolam followed by either continuous infusion or intermittent bolus, according to the clinical need, physical status, age and concomitant medication (*see 4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction*).

Adults

IV loading dose: 0.03 to 0.3mg/kg should be given slowly in increments. Each increment of 1 to 2.5mg should be injected over 20 to 30 seconds allowing 2 minutes between successive increments. In hypovolaemic, vasoconstricted, or hypothermic patients the loading dose should be reduced or omitted. When midazolam is given with potent analgesics, the latter should be administered first so that the sedative effects of midazolam can be safely titrated on top of any sedation caused by the analgesic.

IV maintenance dose: doses can range from 0.03 to 0.2mg/kg/h. In hypovolaemic, vasoconstricted, or hypothermic patients the maintenance dose should be reduced. The level of sedation should be assessed regularly. With long-term sedation, tolerance may develop and the dose may have to be increased.

Children over 6 months of age

In intubated and ventilated paediatric patients, a loading dose of 0.05 to 0.2mg/kg IV should be administered slowly over at least 2 to 3 minutes to establish the desired clinical effect. Midazolam should not be administered as a rapid intravenous dose. The loading dose is followed by a continuous IV infusion at 0.06 to 0.12mg/kg/h (1 to 2µg/kg/min). The rate of infusion can be increased or decreased (generally by 25% of the initial or subsequent infusion rate) as required or supplemental IV doses of midazolam can be administered to increase or maintain the desired effect.

When initiating an infusion with midazolam in haemodynamically compromised patients, the usual loading dose should be titrated in small increments and the patient monitored for haemodynamic instability, e.g., hypotension. These patients are also vulnerable to the respiratory depressant effects of midazolam and require careful monitoring of respiratory rate and oxygen saturation.

Neonates and children up to 6 months of age

Midazolam should be given as a continuous IV infusion, starting at 0.03mg/kg/h (0.5 micrograms/kg/min) in neonates with a gestational age < 32 weeks or 0.06mg/kg/h (1 microgram/kg/min) in neonates with a gestational age > 32 weeks and children up to 6 months.

Intravenous loading doses are not recommended in premature infants, neonates and children up to 6 months, rather the infusion may be run more rapidly for the first several hours to establish therapeutic plasma levels. The rate of infusion should be carefully and frequently reassessed, particularly after the first 24 hours so as to administer the lowest possible effective dose and reduce the potential for drug accumulation.

Careful monitoring of respiratory rate and oxygen saturation is required.

In premature infants, neonates and children less than 15 kg of body weight, midazolam solutions with concentrations higher than 1mg/ml are not recommended. Higher concentrations should be diluted to 1mg/ml.

4.3 Contraindications

Known hypersensitivity to benzodiazepines or to any of the ingredients in the product.

Use of midazolam for conscious sedation in patients with severe respiratory failure or acute respiratory depression.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Midazolam should be used only when the appropriate resuscitation facilities are available, as IV administration of midazolam may depress myocardial contractility and cause apnoea. Severe cardiorespiratory adverse events have occurred rarely, and include respiratory depression, apnoea, respiratory arrest and/or cardiac arrest. Such life-threatening incidents are more likely to occur if the injection is given too rapidly or when a high dosage is administered. Paediatric patients less than 6 months of age are particularly vulnerable to airway obstruction and hypoventilation, therefore titration with small increments to clinical effect and careful monitoring of respiratory rate and oxygen saturation are essential.

When midazolam is used for premedication, adequate observation of the patient after administration is mandatory as inter-individual sensitivity varies and symptoms of overdose may occur.

Special caution should be exercised when administering midazolam to high-risk patients:

- Adults over 60 years of age.
- Chronically ill or debilitated patients, e.g.
 - Patients with chronic respiratory insufficiency.
 - Patients with chronic renal failure, impaired hepatic function or with impaired cardiac function.
- Paediatric patients, especially those with cardiovascular instability.

These high-risk patients require lower dosages (*see 4.2 Posology and method of administration*) and should be continuously monitored for early signs of alterations of vital functions.

Benzodiazepines should be used with caution in patients with a history of alcohol or drug abuse.

As with any agent with CNS depressant and/or muscle-relaxant properties, particular care should be taken when administering midazolam to a patient with myasthenia gravis.

Tolerance

Some loss of efficacy has been reported when midazolam was used for long-term sedation in intensive care units (ICU).

Dependence

When midazolam is used for long-term sedation in ICU, it should be borne in mind that physical dependence on midazolam may develop. The risk of dependence increases with dose and duration of treatment.

Withdrawal symptoms

During prolonged treatment with midazolam in ICU, physical dependence may develop. Therefore, abrupt termination of the treatment will be accompanied by withdrawal symptoms. The following symptoms may occur: headaches, muscle pain, anxiety, tension, restlessness, confusion, irritability, rebound insomnia, mood changes, hallucinations and convulsions. Since the risk of withdrawal symptoms is greater after abrupt discontinuation of treatment, it is recommended to decrease doses gradually.

Amnesia

Midazolam causes anterograde amnesia (frequently this effect is very desirable in situations such as before and during surgical and diagnostic procedures), the duration of which is directly related to the administered dose. Prolonged amnesia can present problems in outpatients, who are scheduled for discharge following intervention. After receiving midazolam parenterally, patients should be discharged from hospital or consulting room only if accompanied by an attendant.

Paradoxical reactions

Paradoxical reactions such as agitation, involuntary movements (including tonic/clonic convulsions and muscle tremor), hyperactivity, hostility, rage reaction, aggressiveness, paroxysmal excitement and assault, have been reported to occur with midazolam. These reactions may occur with high doses and/or when the injection is given rapidly. The highest incidence to such reactions has been reported among children and the elderly.

Delayed elimination of midazolam

Midazolam elimination may be altered in patients receiving compounds that inhibit or induce the isoenzyme CYP3A4 (see 4.5 *Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction*).

Midazolam elimination may also be delayed in patients with liver dysfunction, low cardiac output and in neonates (see 5.2 *Pharmacokinetics in special populations*).

Preterm infants and neonates

Due to an increased risk of apnoea, extreme caution is advised when sedating pre-term and former pre-term patients. Careful monitoring of respiratory rate and oxygen saturation is required.

Rapid injection should be avoided in neonates.

Neonates have reduced and/or immature organ function and are also vulnerable to profound and/or prolonged respiratory effects of midazolam.

Adverse haemodynamic events have been reported in paediatric patients with cardiovascular instability; rapid intravenous administration should be avoided in this population.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

The metabolism of midazolam is almost exclusively mediated by the isoenzyme CYP3A4 of the cytochrome P450 (CYP450). CYP3A4 inhibitors (see 4.4 *Special warnings and special precautions for use*) and inducers, but also other active substances (see below), may lead to drug-drug interactions with midazolam.

Since midazolam undergoes significant first pass effect, parenteral midazolam would theoretically be less affected by metabolic interactions and clinical relevant consequences should be limited.

- Itraconazole, fluconazole and ketoconazole

Co-administration of oral midazolam and some azole antifungals (itraconazole, fluconazole, ketoconazole) markedly increased midazolam plasma levels and prolonged its elimination half-life, leading to major impairment of psychosedative tests. Elimination half-lives were increased from 3 to 8 hours approximately.

When a single bolus dose of midazolam was given for short-term sedation, its effect was not enhanced or prolonged to a clinically significant degree by itraconazole, and dosage reduction is therefore not required. However, administration of high doses or long-term infusions of midazolam to patients receiving itraconazole, fluconazole or ketoconazole, e.g. during intensive care treatment, may result in long-lasting hypnotic effects, possible delayed recovery, and possible respiratory depression, thus requiring dose adjustments.

- Verapamil and diltiazem

No *in vivo* interaction studies are available with intravenous midazolam and verapamil or diltiazem. However, as expected, oral midazolam pharmacokinetics varied in a clinically significant way following co-administration with either of these calcium channel blockers. Notably, there was almost a doubling of half-life value and peak plasma level of midazolam resulting in a strongly reduced performance in co-ordination and cognitive function tests while producing profound sedation. When oral midazolam is used, dosage adjustment is usually recommended. Although no clinically significant interaction is expected with midazolam used for short-term sedation, caution should be exercised if intravenous midazolam is concomitantly given with verapamil or diltiazem.

- Macrolide Antibiotics: Erythromycin and clarithromycin

Co-administration of oral midazolam and erythromycin or clarithromycin increased the AUC of midazolam about four fold and more than doubled the elimination half-life of midazolam. Marked changes in psychomotor tests were

observed and it is advised to adjust doses of midazolam, if given orally, due to significantly delayed recovery.

When a single bolus dose of midazolam was given for short-term sedation, the effect of midazolam was not enhanced or prolonged to a clinically significant degree by erythromycin, although a significant decrease in plasma clearance was recorded. Caution should be exercised if intravenous midazolam is concomitantly given with erythromycin or clarithromycin. No clinical significant interaction has been shown with midazolam and other macrolide antibiotics.

- Cimetidine and ranitidine

Co-administration of cimetidine (at doses equal or higher than 800mg/day) and intravenous midazolam slightly increased the steady-state plasma concentration of midazolam, which could possibly lead to a delayed recovery, whereas co-administration of ranitidine had no effect. Cimetidine and ranitidine did not affect oral midazolam pharmacokinetics. These data indicate that intravenous midazolam can be administered at usual doses of cimetidine (i.e. 400mg/day) and ranitidine without dosage adjustment.

- Saquinavir

Co-administration of a single intravenous dose of 0.05mg/kg midazolam after 3 or 5 days of saquinavir dosing (1200mg t.i.d.-three times a day) to 12 healthy volunteers decreased the midazolam clearance by 56% and increased the elimination half-life from 4.1 to 9.5 h. Only the subjective effects to midazolam (visual analogue scales with the item “overall drug effect”) were intensified by saquinavir.

Therefore, a single bolus dose of intravenous midazolam can be given in combination with saquinavir. Nevertheless, during a prolonged midazolam infusion, a total dose reduction is recommended to avoid delayed recovery (see 4.4 *Special warnings and special precautions for use*).

- Other protease inhibitors: ritonavir, indinavir, nelfinavir and amprenavir

No *in vivo* interaction studies are available with intravenous midazolam and other protease inhibitors. Considering that saquinavir has the weakest CYP3A4 inhibitory potency among all protease inhibitors, midazolam should be systematically reduced during prolonged infusion when administered in combination with protease inhibitors other than saquinavir.

- CNS depressants

Other sedative drugs may potentiate midazolam effects.

The pharmacological classes of CNS depressants include opiates (when they are used as analgesics, antitussives or substitutive treatments), antipsychotics, other benzodiazepines used as anxiolytics or hypnotics, phenobarbital, sedative antidepressants, antihistaminics and centrally acting antihypertensive drugs.

Additional sedation should be taken into account when midazolam is combined with other sedative drugs.

Moreover, additional increase of respiratory depression should be particularly monitored in case of concomitant treatment with opiates, phenobarbital or benzodiazepines.

Alcohol may markedly enhance the sedative effect of midazolam. Alcohol intake should be strongly avoided in case of midazolam administration.

Other interactions

The IV administration of midazolam decreases the minimum alveolar concentration (MAC) of inhalation anaesthetics required for general anaesthesia.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

There are insufficient data available on midazolam to assess its safety during pregnancy. Animal studies do not indicate a teratogenic effect, but foetotoxicity was observed as with other benzodiazepines. No data on exposed pregnancies are available for the first two trimesters of pregnancy.

The administration of high doses of midazolam in the last trimester of pregnancy, during labour or when used as an induction agent of anaesthesia for caesarean section has been reported to produce maternal or foetal adverse effects (inhalation risk in mother, irregularities in the foetal heart rate, hypotonia, poor sucking, hypothermia and respiratory depression in the neonate).

Moreover, infants born from mothers who received benzodiazepines chronically during the latter stage of pregnancy may have developed physical dependence and may be at some risk of developing withdrawal symptoms in the post-natal period.

Consequently, midazolam should not be used during pregnancy unless clearly necessary. It is preferable to avoid using it for caesarean section.

The risk for the neonate should be taken into account in case of administration of midazolam for any surgery near the term.

Midazolam passes in low quantities into breast milk. Nursing mothers should be advised to discontinue breast-feeding for 24 hours following administration of midazolam.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Sedation, amnesia, impaired attention and impaired muscular function may adversely affect the ability to drive or use machines. Prior to receiving midazolam, the patient should be warned not to drive a vehicle or operate a machine until completely recovered. The physician should decide when these activities may be resumed. It is recommended that the patient is accompanied when returning home after discharge.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The following undesirable effects have been reported (very rarely) to occur when midazolam is injected:

Skin and appendages: skin rash, urticarial reaction, pruritus.

Central and peripheral nervous system and psychiatric: drowsiness and prolonged sedation, reduced alertness, confusion, euphoria, hallucinations, fatigue, headache, dizziness, ataxia, post-operative sedation, anterograde amnesia, the duration of which is directly related to the administered dose. Anterograde amnesia may still be present at the end of the procedure and in isolated cases prolonged amnesia has been reported.

Paradoxical reactions such as agitation, involuntary movements (including tonic/clonic movements and muscle tremor), hyperactivity, hostility, rage reaction, aggressiveness, paroxysmal excitement and assault, have been reported, particularly among children and the elderly.

Convulsions have been reported more frequently in premature infants and neonates.

Use of midazolam - even in therapeutic doses - may lead to the development of physical dependence after prolonged IV administration, abrupt discontinuation may be accompanied by withdrawal symptoms including withdrawal convulsions.

Gastrointestinal system: nausea, vomiting, hiccough, constipation, dry mouth.

Cardiorespiratory: severe cardiorespiratory adverse events: respiratory depression, apnoea, respiratory arrest and/or cardiac arrest, hypotension, heart rate changes, vasodilating effects, dyspnoea, laryngospasm.

Life-threatening incidents are more likely to occur in adults over 60 years of age and those with pre-existing respiratory insufficiency or impaired cardiac function, particularly when the injection is given too rapidly or when a high dosage is administered (*see 4.4 Special warnings and special precautions for use*).

Body-as-a-whole – general: generalised hypersensitivity reactions: skin reactions, cardiovascular reactions, bronchospasm, anaphylactic shock.

Application site: erythema and pain on injection site, thrombophlebitis, thrombosis.

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms

The symptoms of overdose are mainly an intensification of the pharmacological effects; drowsiness, mental confusion, lethargy and muscle relaxation or paradoxical excitation. More serious symptoms would be areflexia, hypotension, cardiorespiratory depression, apnoea and coma.

Treatment

In most cases monitoring of vital functions is only required. In the management of overdose special attention should be paid to the respiratory and cardiovascular functions in intensive care unit.

The benzodiazepine antagonist flumazenil is indicated in case of severe intoxication accompanied by coma or respiratory depression. Caution should be observed in the use of flumazenil in case of mixed drug overdosage and in patients with epilepsy already treated with benzodiazepines.

Flumazenil should not be used in patients treated with tricyclic antidepressant drugs, epileptogenic drugs, or patients with ECG abnormalities (QRS or QT prolongation).

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Hypnotics and sedatives, benzodiazepine derivatives
ATC code: N05CD08.

Midazolam is a derivative of the imidazobenzodiazepine group. It has pronounced sedative and sleep-inducing effects and it also exerts anxiolytic, anticonvulsant and muscle-relaxing effects. The pharmacological action of midazolam is of short duration because of rapid metabolic transformation.

Midazolam forms water-soluble salts with acids, producing a stable and well-tolerated injection solution.

Following IV or IM administration of midazolam, anterograde amnesia occurs and the patient does not remember events that took place during the maximal activity of midazolam.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption after IM injection

Absorption of midazolam from muscle is rapid and complete. Maximum plasma concentrations are reached within 30 minutes. The absolute bioavailability after IM injection is over 90%.

Absorption after rectal administration

After rectal administration midazolam is absorbed rapidly. Maximum plasma concentration is reached in about 30 minutes. The absolute bioavailability is about 50%.

Distribution

Following IV injection of midazolam, the plasma concentration-time curve shows one or two distinct phases of distribution. The volume of distribution at steady state is 0.7 - 1.2 l/kg. Midazolam is extensively bound (96-98%) to plasma proteins, mainly to albumin. There is a slow and insignificant passage of midazolam into the cerebrospinal fluid. In humans, midazolam has been shown to cross the placenta slowly and to enter the foetal circulation. Small quantities of midazolam are found in human milk.

Metabolism

Midazolam is almost entirely eliminated by biotransformation. The fraction of the dose extracted by the liver has been estimated to be 30 - 60%. Midazolam is hydroxylated by the cytochrome P4503A4 isoenzyme and the major urinary and plasma metabolite is alpha-hydroxymidazolam. Plasma concentrations of alpha-hydroxymidazolam are 12% of those of the parent compound. Although pharmacologically active, this metabolite contributes only minimally (about 10%) to the effects of intravenous midazolam.

Elimination

In healthy volunteers, the elimination half-life of midazolam is between 1.5 - 2.5 hours. Plasma clearance is in the range of 300 - 500ml/min. Midazolam is excreted mainly by the kidneys (60 - 80% of the injected dose) and recovered as glucuroconjugated alpha-hydroxymidazolam; less than 1% of the dose is recovered in urine as unchanged drug.

The elimination half-life of alpha-hydroxymidazolam is less than 1 hour. When midazolam is given by IV infusion, its elimination kinetics do not differ from those following bolus injection.

Pharmacokinetics in special populations:

Elderly

In adults over 60 years of age, the elimination half-life may be prolonged up to four times.

Children

The rate of rectal absorption in children is similar to that in adults but the bioavailability is 5-18% lower. The elimination half-life after IV and rectal administration is shorter in children 3 - 10 years old (1 - 1.5 hours) as compared with that in adults, the difference being consistent with an increased metabolic clearance in children.

Neonates

In neonates the elimination half-life is on average 6 - 12 hours, probably due to liver immaturity and the clearance is reduced (see 4.4 *Special warnings and special precautions for use*).

Obese

The mean half-life is longer in obese than in non-obese patients (5.9 vs 2.3 hours), due to an increase of approximately 50% in the volume of distribution corrected for total body weight. The clearance is not significantly different in obese and non-obese patients.

Patients with hepatic impairment

The elimination half-life in cirrhotic patients may be longer and the clearance smaller as compared to those in healthy volunteers (see 4.4 *Special warnings and special precautions for use*).

Patients with renal impairment

The elimination half-life in patients with chronic renal failure is similar to that in healthy volunteers.

Critically ill patients

The elimination half-life of midazolam is prolonged up to six times in critically ill patients.

Patients with cardiac insufficiency

The elimination half-life is longer in patients with congestive heart failure compared with that in healthy subjects (see 4.4 *Special warnings and special precautions for use*).

5.3 Preclinical safety data

There are no preclinical data of relevance to the prescriber which are additional to that already included in other sections of the SPC.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**6.1 List of excipients**

Sodium chloride
Hydrochloric acid
Sodium hydroxide
Water for injections

6.2 Incompatibilities

Admixture with Hartmann's solution is not recommended, as the potency of midazolam decreases.
This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products except those mentioned in section 6.6

6.3 Shelf life

Unopened: 3 years.

Chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 24 hours at 25°C.

From a microbiological point of view, the product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at 2 to 8°C, unless dilution has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 30°C.

Keep the container in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Type 1, 1 ml, 2 ml, 3 ml, 5 ml, and 10 ml glass ampoules in packs of 10.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal of a used medicinal product or waste materials derived from such medicinal product and other handling of the product

For single use only.

Discard any unused contents.

The product should be used immediately after opening.

Midazolam Injection BP 5 mg/ml is stable, both physically and chemically, for up to 24 hours at 2°C - 8°C when mixed aseptically with 500 ml infusion fluids containing Dextrose 4 % with Sodium Chloride 0.18 %, Dextrose 5 % or Sodium Chloride 0.9 %. Diluted product should be discarded if not used within 24 hours.

Do not use the product if the solution is discoloured (*see 3. Pharmaceutical Form*).

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Accord Healthcare Limited
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8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

PA 1390/10/4

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 30 September 2005

Date of last renewal: 30 September 2010

10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

November 2011