Diazepam injection

This information is a summary only. It does not contain all information about this medicine. If you would like more information about the medicine you are taking, check with your doctor or other health care provider. No rights can be derived from the information provided in this medicine leaflet.

Indications
Severe anxiety, acute panic attacks or agitation, including delirium tremens, acute muscle spasm, status epilepticus. Before and during minor surgery, orthopaedic or dental procedures and various, investigational techniques such as endoscopy, cardiac catheterization or cardioversion.

Dosage and Administration

- For severe anxiety states and delirium tremens: 2 - 10 mg by intramuscular or intravenous injection, repeated after 4 hours if necessary to a maximum of 30 mg in 8 hours.
- For status epilepticus: 0.15 - 0.25 mg/kg body weight by intramuscular or intravenous injection, repeated if necessary after 30 - 60 minutes, or by slow intravenous infusion. (See pharmaceutical precautions).
- For sedative and tranquilizing purposes: The dosage should be governed by the response of the patient, but 0.2 mg/kg body weight is generally recommended, by intravenous or intramuscular injection. Guidelines for dosage in children are: Up to 1 year; 50 micrograms/kg body weight every 6 hours. 1-5 years; up to 2 mg daily. 6-12 years; up to 4 mg daily.
  The above adult doses should be halved in elderly or debilitated patients.

Contraindications, warnings, etc.
Diazepam must not be given in known benzodiazepine sensitivity and only with great caution in the elderly and debilitated, patients with organic cerebral changes, chronic pulmonary insufficiency, closed angle glaucoma and hepatic or renal insufficiency. Use in pregnancy, particularly in the first trimester, and near term and in nursing mothers should be avoided.

Withdrawal after prolonged high doses must be gradual. Accumulation of drug and long acting metabolites may occur on chronic use. The dependence potential of the Benzodiazepines is low, particularly when limited to short term use. The potential increases when high doses are used and especially when given over long periods. This is particularly so in patients with a history of alcoholism or drug abuse or in patients with marked personality disorders. Regular monitoring in such patients is essential. Repeated prescribing should be avoided as a routine and treatment should be withdrawn gradually. Symptoms such as depression, nervousness, rebound insomnia, irritability, sweating and diarrhoea have been reported following abrupt cessation of treatment in patients receiving even normal doses for short periods of time.

Interactions
Diazepam may potentiate the sedative and depressant effects of other centrally acting drugs and alcohol. Occasional antagonism of levodopa has been reported. Diazepam may cause a rise in serum creatinine phosphokinase.

Driving and using machines
Diazepam may effect your concentration or may make you feel sleepy. It may also affect how your muscles work. Do not drive or use any tools or machines if you are affected in this way.

Pharmaceutical Precautions
Ampoules should be stored at less than 25°C and protected from light. If given as an infusion, diazepam may be administered in a strength not exceeding 40 mg (8 ml) in 500 ml sodium chloride 0.9%, dextrose 5%, Hartmann's solution or Ringers solution. Such diluted solutions must be discarded after 6 hours. Ampoule contents must never be mixed with other drugs either in the same syringe or in an infusion solution. Diazepam should not be stored or diluted into containers, burettes or syringes of PVC. Diazepam appears not to be absorbed onto containers of glass or polyethylene. Giving sets of PVC should be kept as short as possible to avoid substantial loss.