

Midazolam

(Dormazolam, Buccolam*, Epistatus*, Hypnovel* and several others) POM-V, POM CD SCHEDULE 3

- **Formulations**

Injectable: 1 mg/ml, 2 mg/ml, 5 mg/ml solutions. Oromucosal solution: 5 mg/ml in pre-filled syringes of 0.5 ml, 1 ml, 1.5 ml, 2 ml; 10 mg/ml pre-filled syringe. Dormazolam is authorized in horses.

- **Action**

Causes neural inhibition by increasing the effect of GABA on the GABA_A receptor, resulting in sedation, anxiolytic effects, hypnotic effects, amnesia, muscle relaxation and anticonvulsive effects. Compared with diazepam, it is more potent, has a shorter onset and duration of action (<1 hour in dogs) and is less irritant to tissues.

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- **Use**

- Provides sedation with amnesia; as part of a premedication regime or as part of combined anaesthetic protocols.
- Emergency control of epileptic seizures (including status epilepticus).

Provides unreliable sedation as a sole agent, although it will sedate depressed animals. It is often used to offset muscle hypertonicity caused by ketamine. It is used with opioids and/or acepromazine for pre-anaesthetic medication in the critically ill. If used at induction it may reduce propofol or alfaxalone requirement. Midazolam can be diluted with saline, but avoid fluids containing calcium as this may result in precipitation of midazolam. Use with caution in severe hypotension, cardiac disease and respiratory disease. As it is metabolized by the cytochrome P450 enzyme system, care should be taken in animals with hepatic impairment. Flumazenil (a benzodiazepine antagonist) will reverse the effects of midazolam.

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- **DOSES**

When used for sedation is generally given as part of a combination. See Appendix for sedation protocols in cats and dogs.

- **Dogs, Cats**
 - Emergency management of seizures including status epilepticus: bolus dose of 0.2–0.3 mg/kg i.v. Time to onset of clinical effect is rapid for i.v. use, therefore, repeat q10min if there is no clinical effect (up to 3 times).
 - Can be given rectally if venous access is not available, although it has been shown to be more effective at controlling status epilepticus if given intranasally in dogs.
 - Midazolam may be used in conjunction with diazepam for emergency control of seizures. In dogs, additional doses may be administered if appropriate

supportive care facilities are available (for support of respiration). Once the seizures have been controlled, the dog can be maintained on a CRI of 0.3 mg/kg/h.