This leaflet has been written specifically for parents and carers about the use of this medicine in children. The information may differ from that provided by the manufacturer. Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

Name of drug
Midazolam
Brand names: Midazolam (Pfizer)

Why is it important for my child to take this medicine?
Midazolam is used to stop a seizure.

What is midazolam available as?
• Plastic ampoule: 15 mg in 3 mL

When should I give midazolam?
You should give midazolam if your child's seizure lasts more than 5 minutes. Follow these steps:

- Twist open the midazolam ampoule and insert the syringe into the top of the ampoule. Hold the syringe upright with the ampoule now sitting upside down on top of the syringe. Withdraw the correct dose into the syringe. Push out any big air bubbles and check the amount of midazolam in the syringe. Pull the ampoule and syringe apart.
- Inside the cheek
  Midazolam needs to go into the space between the inside of the cheek and the teeth, which is called the buccal cavity. Your doctor or pharmacist will show you what to do.
  • Gently lift your child’s head back so they are comfortable. If necessary, place your hand under your child’s jaw to stop the midazolam from spilling out.
  • The medicine quickly gets from the cheek into the blood to stop the seizure. If you put the midazolam into the middle of the mouth it will not work as well because it cannot get into the blood so quickly.
  • Your child does not need to swallow the medicine. (It is not harmful if they do swallow it, but it will not work as well.)

- Into the nose
  • Attach the nasal applicator tip to the top of the syringe. Insert the nasal tip into the nostril and press the syringe plunger to give half the dose. Remove from the nostril and insert into the other nostril to give the remaining dose.
  • The medicine quickly gets from the lining of the nose into the blood to stop the seizure.

- Gently lift your child’s head back so they are comfortable. If necessary, place your hand under your child’s jaw to stop the midazolam from spilling out.
- The medicine quickly gets from the cheek into the blood to stop the seizure. If you put the midazolam into the middle of the mouth it will not work as well because it cannot get into the blood so quickly.
- Your child does not need to swallow the medicine. (It is not harmful if they do swallow it, but it will not work as well.)

Do not give your child more than one dose of midazolam during one seizure unless you have been told to do this by the hospital doctor.

How should I give it?
Twist open the midazolam ampoule and insert the syringe into the top of the ampoule. Hold the syringe upright with the ampoule now sitting upside down on top of the syringe. Push out any big air bubbles and check the amount of midazolam in the syringe. Pull the ampoule and syringe apart.

Inside the cheek
Midazolam needs to go into the space between the inside of the cheek and the teeth, which is called the buccal cavity. Your doctor or pharmacist will show you what to do.

• Gently lift your child’s head back so they are comfortable. If necessary, place your hand under your child’s jaw to stop the midazolam from spilling out.
• The medicine quickly gets from the cheek into the blood to stop the seizure. If you put the midazolam into the middle of the mouth it will not work as well because it cannot get into the blood so quickly.
• Your child does not need to swallow the medicine. (It is not harmful if they do swallow it, but it will not work as well.)

Into the nose
• Attach the nasal applicator tip to the top of the syringe. Insert the nasal tip into the nostril and press the syringe plunger to give half the dose. Remove from the nostril and insert into the other nostril to give the remaining dose.
• The medicine quickly gets from the lining of the nose into the blood to stop the seizure.

If the seizure has not slowed down or stopped, give one dose of midazolam
Wait 5 minutes.
If the seizure has not slowed down or stopped, call for an ambulance
Wait 5 minutes.

Note the time when the seizure starts
Wait 5 minutes. The fit may stop on its own.

Do not give your child another dose of midazolam unless you have been told you can by your doctor.
Do not give your child rectal diazepam or any other drug.

How much should I give?
Your doctor will work out the amount of midazolam (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label. Your pharmacist will give you a syringe to measure the correct amount. Your doctor or pharmacist will explain how to measure the dose. If the doctor has recommended nasal midazolam, you will be given a special nasal applicator tip.

It is important that you follow your doctor’s instructions about how much to give.

Do not give your child more than one dose of midazolam during one seizure unless you have been told to do this by the hospital doctor.
What if my child is sick (vomits)?
Do not give your child another dose of midazolam unless you have been told you can by your doctor or nurse.

What if I don’t give it?
If you do not give the midazolam, or do not give the right dose, your child’s seizure may not stop. This could be dangerous and you will need to call an ambulance to take your child to hospital straight away.

What if I give too much?
If you think you may have given your child too much midazolam, or your child’s breathing slows down or stops, telephone for an ambulance straight away.

Are there any possible side-effects?
We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they have other effects that we don’t want (side-effects).
- Your child may be sleepy after having midazolam. They should have a sleep if they want to.
- Your child may be confused. They probably won’t remember having the seizure.
- Your child’s breathing may become a little shallow for a while. You do not need to worry about this. However, if you think your child is not breathing or if your child’s lips get a blue tinge, call an ambulance straight away.

There may, sometimes, be other side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, contact your doctor. You can report any suspected side-effects to your doctor, pharmacist, or the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) at https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/carm/.

Can other common medicines be given at the same time as midazolam?
- You must not give your child any other medicine to stop the seizure, unless your doctor has said that you can do this.

Is there anything else I need to know about this medicine?
- Make sure that your child always has their midazolam with them.
- Make sure that anyone who looks after your child knows what to do and how to give midazolam if your child has a seizure.

Only give midazolam to your child. Never give it to anyone else, even if they seem to be having a seizure, as this could do harm.

If anyone else takes the medicine by accident, take them to a doctor straight away.
- Make sure that the midazolam you have at home have not reached the ‘best before’ or ‘use by’ date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of.

Where should I keep this medicine?
- Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge.
- Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.
- Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Who to contact for more information
Your child’s hospital doctor or pharmacist will be able to give you more information about midazolam and other medicines used to treat epilepsy.
You can also get useful information from:
Ministry of Health

This is an adaption of Medicines for Children: information for parents and carers, from www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk, © NPPG, RCPCH and WellChild 2011, all rights reserved regarding Midazolam for stopping seizures version 2, May 2014. To be reviewed by: May 2017.

The original information has been prepared by The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG) and WellChild. The New Zealand Medicines Formulary is responsible for the adaptation to New Zealand conditions. Medicines can be used in different ways in different patients. This information provides guidance and practical advice only, and it is important that you contact your doctor or pharmacist if you are uncertain about the drugs your child has been prescribed. Feedback on the contents of the brochure may be directed to the New Zealand Formulary for Children staff@nzformulary.org