DIAZEPAM (Valium®)

Classification: Anticonvulsant/Tranquilizer

Actions:
1. Promotes muscle relaxation through inhibition of spinal motor reflex pathways.
2. Suppresses seizure activity through suppression of the motor cortex of the brain.
3. Produces amnesic effect
4. Skeletal muscle relaxant

Indications:
1. Active, continuous seizure
2. Status epilepticus
3. Sedation prior to cardioversion
4. Acute behavior disorder (base physician order only)
5. Severe muscle spasms (base physician order only)
6. Assess for eclampsia in pregnancy

Contraindications:
1. History of hypersensitivity to the drug
2. Hold for CNS depression, respiratory depression and hypotension
3. ALOC of unknown etiology

Adverse Effects:
Cardiovascular  Neurological
Hypotension  Dizziness
Ataxia
Respiratory  Fatigue
Depression  Pain/burning at injection site

Administration:
**ADULT DOSE**
1. Seizure: 0.3mg/kg slow IVP, titrated to terminate seizure activity, not to exceed 20 mg. If unable to establish an IV, administer 0.3 mg/kg per rectum (PR) via a lubricated 3 ml syringe without a needle, titrated to terminate seizure activity, not to exceed 20 mg
2. Pre-cardioversion: 2.5-10 mg IVP

**PEDIATRIC DOSE**
1. Seizure: administer 0.3 mg/kg slow IVP, titrated to terminate seizure activity, not to exceed 10 mg. If unable to establish an IV, administer 0.3 mg/kg per rectum (PR) via a lubricated 3 ml syringe without a needle, titrated to terminate seizure activity, not to exceed 10 mg

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DIAZEPAM (Valium®) - continued

2. **Pre-cardioversion:** administer 0.3 mg/kg slow IVP, not to exceed 10 mg

*Base physician order for IM administration may be considered for adult or pediatric patients*

**Onset:** 1-5 minutes, may be longer for PR dosing

**Duration:** 15 minutes to 1 hour