

A photograph of a group of people, likely students or staff, sitting around a table in a classroom or meeting room. They are looking at documents and talking. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the text.

Buccal midazolam

Training for care home staff

Trudy Thomas – Epilepsy Specialist Pharmacist



- Lecturer at Medway School of Pharmacy (Kent)
- Lead for independent prescribing
- Epilepsy Specialist Pharmacist Medway Foundation Trust
- Meds Man Lead for Epilepsy Kent and Medway ICB

What am I covering today?

- A bit of background about epilepsy/seizures
- A bit about rescue medication in prolonged or repeated seizures
- The basics of how to give the 2 main rescue medicines used in UK

What is Epilepsy?

A chronic disorder of the brain :

- Characterised by a tendency to have seizures
- And other problems eg memory issues, cognitive difficulties
- Potentially life-threatening



What are seizures?

Abnormal, excessive electrical activity in the brain
Imbalance between normal 'excitation' and 'dampening down' of electrical activity



Who gets epilepsy?



Seizure types



60%
OF PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY HAVE
FOCAL SEIZURES



30%
OF PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY HAVE
GENERALIZED SEIZURES



10%
OF SEIZURES HAVE AN
UNKNOWN ONSET

Tonic-Clonic seizures (sort of)

THE PHASES OF A "TONIC-CLONIC" SEIZURE



THE "AURA" PHASE
- LIGHT-HEADEDNESS
- DIZZINESS
- CONFUSION
- HALLUCINATIONS



THE "TONIC" PHASE
- SKELETAL MUSCLES TIGHTEN UP
- JERKY MOVEMENTS
- USUALLY LASTS 20-30 SECONDS



THE "CLONIC" PHASE
- CONVULSIONS
- VIOLENT BREATHING
- UNCONTROLLABLE TYPICAL SYMMETRIC
- SOMETIMES BUBBLING SOUNDS



POSTICTAL SLEEP
- CONFUSION
- FATIGUE
- 20-30 MINUTES UP TO SEVERAL HOURS

THE-NEW-NEURAL.COM

How is epilepsy managed?

- Anti-seizure medicines (ASMs)



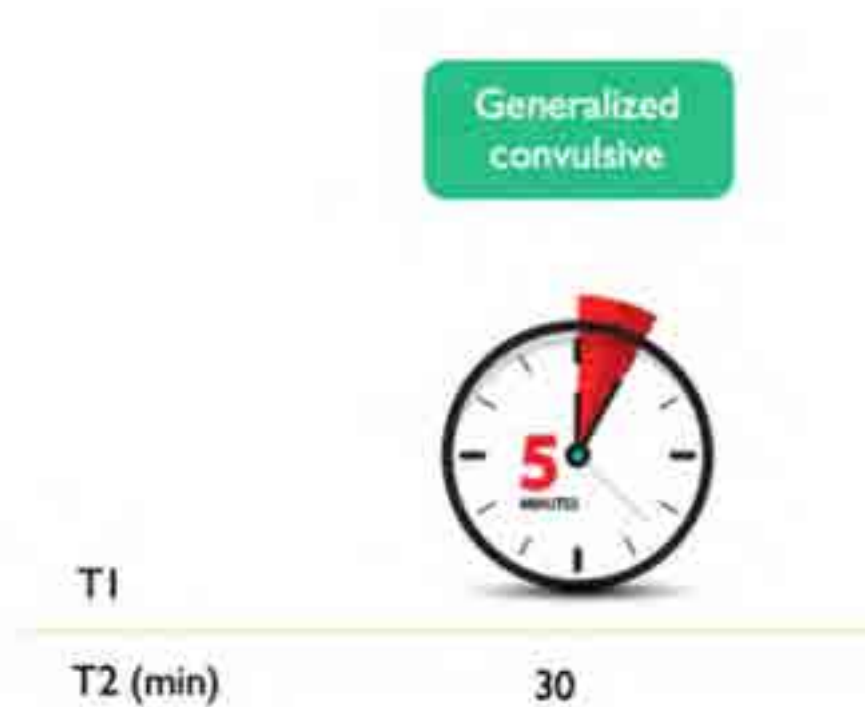
Seizures that don't stop

- Usually seizures stop by themselves – ‘the breaks come on’
- Prolonged seizure or one seizure after another = the breaks have failed = medical emergency
- Status Epilepticus (status)



Status Epilepticus

- 5 mins = the magic time (t1)
- 30 minutes (t2) = risk of mortality much higher
- Community 'rescue' therapy = buccal midazolam



Buccal midazolam

- Buccal midazolam is only prescribed to people who have experienced or are considered at risk of status
- They need to have a relative, friend or carer who is trained to give it
- There are two licensed products in the UK
 - i) Buccolam
 - ii) Epistatus
- **They are not the same nor interchangeable**
- The patient is assessed to see which is suitable for them and then the carer is trained in that device
- The prescription should be written for the brand name product and it is this which the dispensing pharmacist should supply

Buccolam®

Midazolam hydrochloride

5mg/1mL – dose for adults = 2mL

Available in 4 strengths from 18 months and above

Comes as a box of 4

Shelf life of 2 years

[Buccolam NXP » Administration](#)



Buccal midazolam

- Administered into the buccal cavity by the trained carer

Where?

Buccal midazolam

- Administered into the buccal cavity by the trained carer



Buccal midazolam

- Given 5 minutes after the start of the seizure (or if the seizure lasts 2 minutes longer than usual) or
- If the person goes into a second seizure having not recovered from the first – a ‘cluster’



Administration - Buccolam®

1. What are you looking for? - what does a seizure look like? How do you know it has stopped?
2. Start the timer
3. At 5 mins give midazolam



Administration - Buccolam®

1. What are you looking for? - what does a seizure look like? How do you know it has stopped?
2. Start the timer
3. At 5 mins give midazolam
4. Remove syringe from container
5. Remove cap (check the white inner)



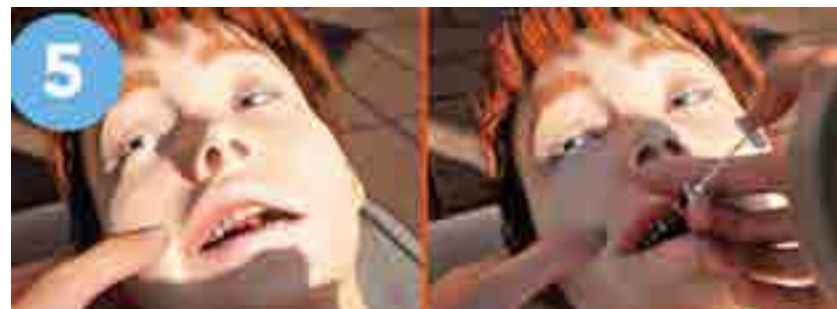
Administration - Buccolam®

1. What are you looking for? - what does a seizure look like? How do you know it has stopped?
2. Start the timer
3. At 5 mins give midazolam
4. Remove syringe from container
5. Remove cap (check the white inner)
6. Grip cheek – mind your fingers!
7. Insert tip of syringe between lower gum and cheek – point downwards (not down throat)
8. Slowly release plunger –into one cheek until empty
9. Start timer again
10. Keep empty syringe



Administration - Epistatus®

1. What are you looking for? - what does a seizure look like? How do you know it has stopped?
2. Start the timer
3. At 5 mins give midazolam
4. Remove syringe from container
5. Remove cap – (twist)
6. Grip cheek – mind your fingers!
7. Insert tip of syringe between lower gum and cheek – point downwards (not down throat)
8. Slowly release plunger – half into one cheek, half the other until empty
9. Start timer again
10. Keep empty syringe



Administration – Altogether now



A few other buccal midazolam things

- Unlicensed for adults over 18 years
- Controlled drug
- **Linked to an individualised administration plan**
- Given as a single dose (some patients can have second dose if it is in their administration plan)
- Don't lock it away so securely that no-one can get at it
- **NOT TO BE KEPT IN THE FRIDGE!**
- Check expiry date regularly
- Keep a record of administration

Sample care plan

Template A

Name: [Patient Name]		ID no. e.g. NHS, CHI, DOB: [ID No.]	
Before giving always check when medication was last administered. Check expiry date before use. Do not refrigerate.			
When should medication/suspension solution be administered? <i>(Administered to be included into each entry to administration)</i>			
When Minocycline is administered to children under 8 years of age for 3 weeks, Minocycline should be used taking care both if it is given a little closer to the end of a cycle (4h) but in the first or second week of using. Being careful of the point when you give medication. This will ensure that you are able to give the right dose.			
How much medication/suspension solution should be given initially? <i>(Some drug formulations, weight-based dose)</i>			
Dose should be given a single 10mg dose of medication (some suspension and tablets) over the course of 1 day, only if the patient is a minimum age.			
Method of administration - Susceptible to errors			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check the name on the cover glass. 2. Check strength is 10mg. 3. Check name close by removing the cap and check with another qualified person. 4. Tilt all bars of Minocycline from syringe and amount. 5. Insert syringe gently into side of mouth, between teeth and lower lip (check for correct dose and level) push syringe plunger until empty. 6. Technique of administration, give with care if possible and always. 			
Can a repeat dose of medication/suspension solution be given? What is the repeat dose, and when can it be given?		What is the maximum dose of medication/suspension solution that can be given in 24 hours?	
If there were to give a second (repeat) dose in 24 hours, 100 mg of medication should be given.		1 x 10mg dose	
When and what further action can be taken?			
<p>Phone 999:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient deteriorating within 15 minutes of last dose of medication being given. • If breathing does not improve by any means once the patient has stopped, or if an acute life-threatening situation is suspected. • If patient starts within 24 hours of the administration of medication. • If this is the patient's last medication dose. 			
Do not exceed maximum dose described for the person in 24 hours unless directed by the GP/Consultant/Nurse Prescriber.			
This treatment is approved by GP/Consultant/Nurse Prescriber:	Name: [Name of GP/Consultant/Nurse Prescriber] Signature: [Signature of GP/Consultant/Nurse Prescriber]		Expiry Date: [Expiry Date] <i>(Maximum 24 hours unless otherwise specified)</i>
Given by:	Signature: [Signature of Pharmacist]		Nurse/Doctor Note: [Nurse/Doctor Note] <i>(To be completed if appropriate, to allow for monitoring of response to treatment)</i>
This treatment protocol has been reviewed and the treatment is effective			
Reviewed/Authorised:			
Signature:			
Date:			

A few other Buccal midazolam things

- Unlicensed for adults over 18 years
- Controlled drug
- Linked to an individualised administration plan
- Given as a single dose (some patients can have second dose if it is in their administration plan)
- Don't lock it away so securely that no-one can get at it
- **NOT TO BE KEPT IN THE FRIDGE!**
- Check expiry date regularly
- Keep a record of administration



Call for help if

- Seizure doesn't stop 5/10 mins after giving midazolam
- If you can't give the full dose
- If breathing slows or stops
- This is the first time a dose is being given
- There are other injuries
- You are unsure



