

## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Midazolam

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

### Brand Names: US

Nayzilam

### Brand Names: Canada

Buccolam

### Warning

- Severe breathing and heart problems have happened. Sometimes, these have been deadly. Get medical help right away if your child has chest pain or pressure or slow, shallow, or trouble breathing.
- This drug is a benzodiazepine. The use of a benzodiazepine drug along with opioid drugs has led to very bad side effects. Side effects that have happened include slowed or trouble breathing and death. Opioid drugs include drugs like codeine,

oxycodone, and morphine. Opioid drugs are used to treat pain and some are used to treat cough. Talk with the doctor.

- If your child is taking this drug with an opioid drug, get medical help right away if your child feels very sleepy or dizzy; if your child has slow, shallow, or trouble breathing; or if your child passes out. Get medical help right away if your child does not respond, does not answer or react like normal, or will not wake up.
- Benzodiazepines can put your child at risk for drug use disorder. Misuse or abuse of this drug can lead to overdose or death, especially when used along with certain other drugs, alcohol, or street drugs. Drug use disorder can happen even if your child takes this drug as told by the doctor. Get medical help right away if your child has changes in mood or behavior, suicidal thoughts or actions, seizures, or trouble breathing.
- Benzodiazepines may cause dependence, especially if taken on a regular basis. This drug is not meant for regular daily use.
- The risk of dependence and withdrawal are raised the longer your child takes this drug and the higher the dose. Talk to the doctor before you lower the dose or stop giving this drug. You will need to follow

the doctor's instructions. Lowering the dose or stopping this drug all of a sudden may cause withdrawal. This can be life-threatening. Get medical help right away if your child has trouble controlling body movements, seizures, new or worse behavior or mood changes like depression or thoughts of suicide, thoughts of harming someone, hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there), losing contact with reality, moving around or talking a lot, or any other bad effects.

- Sometimes, withdrawal signs can last for several weeks to more than 12 months. Tell the doctor if your child has anxiety; trouble with memory, learning, or focusing; trouble sleeping; burning, numbness, or tingling; weakness; shaking; muscle twitching; ringing in the ears; or any other bad effects.

## **What is this drug used for?**

- It is used to calm a child before a procedure.
- It is used to cause sleep during a procedure.
- It is used to treat seizures.

## What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?

### All products:

- If your child is allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had.
- If your child has glaucoma.
- If your child takes any other drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins). There are many drugs that interact with this drug, like certain drugs that are used for HIV, infections, or seizures.

### Buccal solution:

- If your child has any of these health problems: Liver problems, lung or breathing problems like sleep apnea, or myasthenia gravis.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe to give this drug with all of your child's other drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with

the doctor.

## **What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?**

### **All products:**

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your child avoid tasks that call for alertness until the effects of this drug wear off and your child feels fully awake. These include things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, toy cars, or motorized vehicles. Your child may also need to wait for 1 full day after getting this drug.
- Sleepiness and feeling less stable may happen with this drug, which may lead to falls. Have your child use care when moving around after getting this drug. Your child may need help with standing and walking until the effects of this drug have worn off.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- Talk with your child's doctor before your child uses marijuana, other forms of cannabis, or prescription or OTC drugs that may slow your child's actions.

- Avoid giving your child grapefruit and grapefruit juice.
- If seizures are different or worse after starting this drug, talk with the doctor.
- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of some side effects may be higher in children.

### **If your child is pregnant or breast-feeding a baby:**

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy. If your child is pregnant or gets pregnant while taking this drug, call the doctor right away.
- Taking this drug late in pregnancy may raise the chance of breathing or feeding problems, low body temperature, or withdrawal symptoms in the newborn. Talk with the doctor.
- Tell your child's doctor if your child is breast-feeding a baby. This drug passes into breast milk and may harm your child's baby.

### **Liquid (syrup) and injection:**

- Studies in young animals and children have shown that frequent or long-term use of anesthesia drugs or drugs used for sleep in children younger than 3 years of age may lead to long-term brain problems. This may also happen in unborn babies if the mother uses this drug

during the third trimester of pregnancy. Talk with the doctor.

### **Buccal solution:**

- Children between 3 and 6 months of age may have a higher risk of breathing problems with this drug. The doctor will watch breathing closely in these children after giving this drug. This drug is not approved for use in children younger than 3 months of age.

### **Injection:**

- Some products have benzyl alcohol. If possible, avoid products with benzyl alcohol in newborns or infants. Serious side effects can happen in these children with some doses of benzyl alcohol, including if given with other drugs that have benzyl alcohol. Talk with the doctor to see if this product has benzyl alcohol in it.

### **What are some side effects that I need to call my child's doctor about right away?**

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Shakiness.
- Twitching.
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- Feeling agitated.
- Trouble controlling body movements.
- Like other drugs that may be used for seizures, this drug may rarely raise the risk of suicidal thoughts or actions. The risk may be higher in people who have had suicidal thoughts or actions in the past. Call the doctor right away about any new or worse signs like depression; feeling nervous, restless, or grouchy; panic attacks; or other changes in mood or behavior. Call the doctor right away if any suicidal thoughts or actions occur.

### **What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

## **Nose spray:**

- Feeling sleepy.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Runny nose.
- Headache.
- Memory problems or loss.

## **Liquid (syrup) and injection:**

- Feeling sleepy.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Memory problems or loss.

## **Liquid (syrup):**

- Upset stomach or throwing up.

## **Buccal solution:**

- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Feeling dizzy or sleepy.
- Headache.

## **Injection:**

- Irritation where this drug is given.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you

have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

### **How is this drug best given?**

Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

### **Nose spray:**

- If you will be using this drug at home, your doctor or nurse will teach you how to use it.
- Do not give this drug by mouth. Use in your child's nose only. Keep out of your child's mouth and eyes (may burn).
- Do not test or prime before using.
- If the seizure cluster has not stopped 10 minutes after using this drug, a second dose may be used if your child's doctor has told you to. Do not use more than 2 doses for the same seizure.
- If using more than 1 dose, switch nostrils with each dose.
- If the seizure does not stop after using this drug, get medical help right away.

## **Liquid (syrup):**

- It is given by mouth only.

## **Buccal solution:**

- Give this drug using the oral syringe. Do not use any kind of needle or tubing.
- Take the cap off the syringe before giving this drug.
- Gently pinch and pull back your child's cheek. Give this drug slowly into the space between the gum and cheek. If needed, half the dose can be given on one side of the mouth, then the other half can be given on the other side. Ask the doctor if you have questions about how to give this drug to your child.
- Only give 1 dose of this drug to your child. If the seizure has not stopped within 10 minutes after giving this drug, get emergency medical help. Keep the empty syringe and give it to the doctor or other healthcare professional to show the dose that was given.

## **Injection:**

- It is given as a shot into a muscle or as an infusion into a vein over a period of time.
- This drug must not be given into the spine.

## **What do I do if my child misses a dose?**

### **Nose spray and buccal solution:**

- This drug is used on an as needed basis. Do not use more often than told by the doctor.

### **Liquid (syrup) and injection:**

- Call your child's doctor to find out what to do.

## **How do I store and/or throw out this drug?**

### **Nose spray:**

- Store at room temperature.
- Store this drug in the blister pack that it comes in. Do not open until ready to use. Do not use if the nasal spray is damaged.

### **Buccal solution:**

- Store at room temperature. Do not refrigerate or freeze.
- Keep the oral syringe in the protective plastic tube until you need to use it.

### **Liquid (syrup) and injection:**

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your child's doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

## All products:

- Store this drug in a safe place where children cannot see or reach it, and where other people cannot get to it. A locked box or area may help keep this drug safe. Keep all drugs away from pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

## General drug facts

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child's doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

## Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at <https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms>.

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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