

## CLONAZEPAM

### ACTIONS AND USES

Clonazepam is a benzodiazepine similar to diazepam used to control severe continuous seizure activity resistant to routine anticonvulsants, or in management of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS).

### DOSAGE

#### ANTICONVULSANT

IV: 100 micrograms/kg every 24 hours initially. Increase up to 200 micrograms/kg every 24 hours if no clinical response.

ORAL: 12.5 microgram/kg every 12 hours initially increasing dose every 4 days according to response until maintenance dose reached (0.5 - 1.5mg per day).

#### NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

See NAS guidelines

#### THERAPEUTIC DRUG MONITORING

Blood levels do not need to be monitored routinely. Consider if concerns about blood levels - contact Biochemistry Department RHSC for details.

#### ADMINISTRATION

By slow IV bolus over 5 minutes.

#### RECONSTITUTION

Clonazepam is available as a solution containing 1mg/ml which must first be diluted with 1ml of diluent (water for injection). The resulting solution must be diluted further before administration. An oral solution can be prepared by pharmacy.

##### **Clonazepam 500 micrograms/ml**

Add 1ml of diluent to 1ml of clonazepam 1mg/ml and mix well. **Dilute further.**

##### **Clonazepam 100 microgram/ml**

Mix 2ml of clonazepam 500 micrograms/ml with 8ml sodium chloride 0.9% and shake well to mix.

##### **Other Compatible diluent**

glucose 10%.

#### INCOMPATIBILITIES

Do not mix with any other drugs.

#### STORAGE

Discard unused 500 micrograms/ml or 100 microgram/ml solutions immediately. Unopened ampoules are stored in drug cupboard in treatment room. Protect from light below 30o C.

### **MONITORING**

Monitor for apnoea and hypotension which may occur if administered too rapidly. Monitor for other effects such as hypotonia, increased salivation and bronchial secretions, agitation, irritability. Blood counts and liver function should be monitored. Withdrawal seizures may occur if stopped suddenly, reduce gradually if treatment for more than 7 days. Cimetidine reduces the clearance of clonazepam. Phenobarbital and phenytoin increase clearance.