

# Intranasal Versed (Versed, midazolam)



Patient and Family Education

---

**This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.**

## What is Versed?

Versed is a medicine used to stop seizures. It can be given into the nose (intranasal).

## Why is intranasal Versed used?

Intranasal Versed:

- Is a fast way to give medicine to a child who cannot swallow.
- Works faster than oral medicines (those that must be swallowed).
- Is more reliable than rectal medicines (those given in the rectum, the body opening where stool comes out). This is because it gets absorbed through the small blood vessels of the nose.

## When should intranasal Versed be used?

Use the medicine only as directed by your child's doctor. Some treatment guidelines include:

- It may be used when someone is having an active seizure.
- It should NOT be used as a maintenance medicine to prevent seizures.

## What dose of intranasal Versed does my child need?

- Your child's doctor will prescribe the dose that is right for him. Follow your doctor's directions carefully.
- Your child's dose is based on his weight.
- You will prepare the dose when you need to treat your child.
- Sometimes 1 dose of Versed is not enough. Your child's doctor may prescribe more than 1 dose.

## How do I prepare the dose of intranasal Versed?

- Your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist can teach you how to give the medicine to your child. You will use a MAD device. MAD stands for Mucosal Atomizer Device. It allows you to spray the medicine into the nose.
- First, gather your supplies. You will need:
  - Alcohol swabs
  - 3 mL (milliliter) syringe
  - A needle
  - Bottle of Versed
  - MAD device
- Remove the cap from the bottle. Clean the top of the Versed bottle well with an alcohol swab, and let it dry.

**In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.**

# Intranasal Versed, continued

---

## To draw up the correct dose of Versed:

- Place the needle on the syringe. Remove the cap from the needle.
- Pull air into the syringe equal to the amount of medicine you will give. Insert the needle into the top of the medicine bottle.
- Push the air into the medicine bottle.
- Turn the bottle upside down, and pull back slowly on the plunger. Fill the syringe with the amount of medicine needed. If there is an air bubble:
  - Pull back a little more medicine.
  - Then, tap the side of the syringe so that the air goes to the top. Push the air out.
  - Check the syringe again to make sure the dose is correct.
- Place the cap on the needle. Remove the needle from the syringe.
- Attach the MAD nasal tip to the top of the syringe.
- Be sure the dose does not exceed 1 mL per nostril.

## How do I give the dose of intranasal Versed?

- Hold the syringe with the MAD nasal tip between your first two fingers. Rest your thumb on the plunger end of the syringe.
- Place the MAD nasal tip in one nostril. Press the plunger, and give half the amount of medicine in the syringe.
- Place the MAD nasal tip in the other nostril. Press the plunger, giving the other half of the medicine in the syringe.
- If your child's seizure continues, your doctor may tell you to give a second dose of Versed 5 to 10 minutes after the first dose. **Only do this if your child's doctor tells you to do so.** If you give a second dose, throw the bottle away afterwards – even if there is medicine left in the bottle. Once opened, the bottle must be used within a short time and cannot be saved.

## What are some possible side effects?

Your child may have one or more of these:

- Feel sleepy or light-headed
- Have some slight irritation in the nose
- May cough, sneeze or have a bitter taste in the mouth. This comes from giving the medicine in the nose.

## Call 911 **right away** if:

- Your child has any breathing problems that need taken care of **right away**.
- Your child has chest retractions (skin pulling in around the ribs and chest when breathing).
- Your child has a blue or dark purple color to the nail beds, lips or gums.
- You have to give a second dose of Versed or if you need to use Diastat. Call 911 after giving the medicine.

## Call your child's doctor if:

- You have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

**In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.**

## Intranasal Versed, continued

---

### Where do I get the medicine and a MAD device?

Your child's doctor will give you a prescription for Versed and a MAD device. Talk to your nurse or doctor about what drugstores carry these supplies.

### How do I care for the MAD device and supplies?

- Once your child is OK, clean the MAD device so you can reuse it. Clean it with hot, soapy water, rinse it well, and let it dry completely before storing.
- Put used vials, needles and syringes in a FDA-cleared sharps container. If you cannot locate one, use an empty household container, such as a laundry detergent container with these features:
  - Made of heavy-duty plastic
  - Stays upright
  - Tight-fitting lid that cannot be punctured
  - Does not leak
- Close the lid, and tape it shut. Label the container.
- Take the container to a sharps disposal program. To locate one, you may:
  - Check with your local trash removal service or health department.
  - Search the internet for safe sharps disposal programs available in your area.
- You may also go to the FDA website at [www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal](http://www.fda.gov/safesharpsdisposal) for more details on safe sharps disposal.

### When should I avoid using intranasal Versed?

**Do not** use intranasal Versed if your child:

- Has a bloody nose or stuffy nose. A bloody or stuffy nose can prevent the medicine from absorbing well.
- Has a nose injury that causes a blockage.

### What general safety tips should I know about giving a medicine?

- Always read the label before you give the medicine to your child.
- Keep all medicines in their labeled container where your child cannot get to them. If possible, store all medicines in a locked cupboard. Throw away all medicines after their expiration date on the container or when your child has finished the prescribed dose.
- Tell your child's doctor, dentist or the emergency room about any medicines your child is taking. Take the medicines with you.
- Call the Georgia Poison Control Center at 800-282-5846 or call 911 at once if your child takes too much medicine or has a bad reaction to his medicine.

*Children's Healthcare of Atlanta has not reviewed all of the sites listed as resources and does not make any representations regarding their content or accuracy. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta does not recommend or endorse any particular products, services or the content or use of any third party websites, or make any determination that such products, services or websites are necessary or appropriate for you or for the use in rendering care to patients. Children's Healthcare of Atlanta is not responsible for the content of any of the above-referenced sites or any sites linked to these Sites. Use of the links provided on this or other sites is at your sole risk.*

**In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.**