RESCUE THERAPIES for EPILEPSY
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Disclosures

Consulting/Ownership: Empatica & Engage
Rescue therapy is a treatment as needed to:
- Abort a prolonged seizure or seizure cluster
- Treat when the risk of a seizure is higher than usual
- Like an “epi-pen” for seizures
Many people can benefit from rescue therapies
- An insurance policy
- Prevents need for ER/Hospital
- Minimizes post-seizure consequences (eg, headache, confusion)
FDA-APPROVED RESCUE MEDS

• Rectal
  • Diazepam Gel (Diastat)

• Oral
  • Diazepam
  • Lorazepam
  • Clonazepam

• Nasal
  • Midzaolam
  • Diazepam

• Sublingual/Buccal/Tongue
  • Lorazepam
  • Midazolam
  • Clobazam
NEW RESCUE THERAPIES

Approved
• Nasal midazolam (Nayzilam)
• Nasal diazepam (Valtoco)

Under development
• Inhaled (Staccato™) Alprazolam (works < 2 minutes)
ADVANTAGES OF NASAL DELIVERY

• Easy access with/without patient cooperation
• Rapid & extensive absorption via nasal mucosa
• Convenient and easy administration
• Needle-less
• Rectal-less
NAYZILAM (MIDAZOLAM NASAL SPRAY 5 mg)

Indication: acute treatment seizure clusters & acute repetitive seizures distinct from a patient’s usual seizure pattern

Patients: 12 years of age and older

Detyniecki K, Van Ess PJ, Sequeira DJ, Wheless JW, Meng TC, Pullman WE. Safety and efficacy of midazolam nasal spray in the outpatient treatment of patients with seizure clusters-a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Epilepsia. 2019 Sep;60(9):1797-1808.
Indication: acute treatment seizure clusters & acute repetitive seizures distinct from a patient’s usual seizure pattern

Patients >= 6 yo

Peak levels – 1.5 hrs

Mean ½ life – 49 hrs

Main metabolism: CYP2C19 & CYP3A4
USING RESCUE MEDS

General principles

Limit use (tolerance)

Use when needed

Consider higher doses if on clobazam/chronic benzos

Which one to use?

Dissolvable clonazepam – Cmax 1-4 hrs; ½ life 35 hrs

Slow onset, long duration

Rectal – great for babies...

Intranasal – rapid onset, shorter duration