

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

JJ-18 LORAZEPAM (ATIVAN)

Class:

- Benzodiazepine

Description:

- Binds to benzodiazepine receptors and enhances the effects of gamma-amino butyric acid (GABA), an inhibitory transmitter, and exerts tranquilizing action on the CNS.

Onset and Duration:

- Onset: 1-2 minutes
- Duration: 6-8 hours

Indications:

- Status Epilepticus
- Seizure
- Agitation

Contraindications:

- Known sensitivity to benzodiazepines
- Known hypersensitivity to polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, or benzyl alcohol
- Acute narrow angle glaucoma
- Severe hypotension / shock
- Coma

Adverse Reactions:

- Sedation
- Transient amnesia, mental impairment, and confusion
- Psychomotor impairment
- Respiratory depression
- Headache
- Vertigo

Drug Interactions:

- Other CNS depressants may exacerbate the effects of lorazepam.
- Antidepressants may potentiate effects on the CNS.

How Supplied:

- 2 and 4mg/mL concentrations vials and tubex syringes.

Dosage and Administration:

- Seizure:
 - Adult: 2 mg IV/IO/IM/Rectal slowly over 2-5 minutes.
 - May repeat dose in 10-15 minutes if needed (maximum 4mg).
 - Pediatric: 0.05 – 0.1mg/kg IV/IO/Rectal slowly over 2-5 minutes.
 - May repeat dose in 10-15 minutes in needed (maximum 2mg).

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JJ-14 LORAZEPAM (ATIVAN) (continued)

- Agitation / Sedation
 - Adult: 1 – 2 mg IV/IO/IM/Rectal slowly over 2-5 minutes.
 - Patients over 50 may experience more profound and prolonged sedation effects with IV lorazepam.
 - Pediatric: 0.05mg/kg IV/IO/Rectal slowly over 2-5 minutes.
 - Each dose should not exceed 2mg.

Special Considerations:

- Pregnancy class D
- Monitor airway and respiratory effort.
- Monitor for hypotension.
- Use care when administering to the elderly, seriously ill, or patients with limited pulmonary reserve (COPD).
- Inadvertent arterial injection may produce arteriospasm, resulting in gangrene that may require amputation.
- Dilute IV / IO dose with equal volume of normal saline.