

ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Medication*

STUDENT NAME: Isabelle Azar

CATEGORY CLASS: BENZODIAZEPAM

MEDICATION:

LORAZEPAM (ATIVAN)

ANTIDOTE: FLUMAZENIL

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

Enhances action of inhibitory neurotransmitter GABA in CNS affecting memory, motor, sensory, cognitive function.

Management of anxiety, status epilepticus, paraneesthesia for amnesia, sedation, alcohol withdrawal, agitation, antiemetic for chemotherapy, rapid tranquilization of agitated pt. Produces anxiolytic, anticonvulsant, sedative muscle relaxant, antiemetic effects.

SIDE EFFECTS

- **Frequent:** Drowsiness dizziness
- **Rare:** Weakness, ataxia, headache, hypotension, n/v, confusion

ADVERSE EFFECTS

- Abrupt or too rapid withdrawal may result in pronounced restlessness, irritability, insomnia, hand tremor, abdominal cramping. Overdose results in drowsiness, confusion, diminished reflexes.

ANXIETY PO ADULTS

INITIALLY 0.5mg -2mg Q4-6 as needed up to 10mg/day

STATUS EPILEPTICUS IV ADULTS

4mg given at maximum rate of 2mg/min may repeat in 3-5 min

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Hypersensitivity to benzodiazepines
- Acute narrow angle glaucoma
- Severe respiratory depression

CAUTIONS

- Neonates
- Renal/hepatic impairment
- Compromised pulmonary function
- Concomitant use with CNS depressants
- Pt with suicidal ideation

- **BEFORE GIVING:** Pt must remain recumbent following parenteral admin to reduce hypotensive effects, Assess motor responses. Assess for drug seeking behavior.
- **INTERVENTION/EVAL:** monitor blood pressure, respiratory rate, heart rate. Screen for suicidal ideation. Screen for drug abuse. Assess for paradoxical reaction.

DRUG

- Valproic acid may increase concentration/effect
- Alcohol
- Other CNS depressants
- Herbs with sedative properties like chamomile, kava kava, valerian

LAB INTERACTIONS

Therapeutic serum level
50-240 ng/ml

Calm facial expression, decreased restlessness, insomnia, decrease in seizure related symptoms.

- Drowsiness usually subsides during continued therapy new
- Avoid tasks that require alertness until response to drug is established
- smoking reduces drug effectiveness
- do not abruptly stop this medication
- do not use alcohol
- seek medical attention if thoughts of suicide occur