

Diazepam (Valium®) treats anxiety, controls muscle spasms and prevents or controls seizures. Diazepam oral tablets or liquid can be swallowed, and the tablet can be crushed to make swallowing easier. Diazepam also is available in a gel form (Diastat®) and a compounded suppository form that can be administered rectally.

Possible side effects of diazepam:

Seek emergency medical help if you or your loved one have any of the following signs of a severe allergic reaction:

- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat
- Hives
- Trouble breathing

Contact the hospice team immediately if you or your loved one experiences one or more of these serious side effects:

- Depression or other mood changes
- Hallucinations
- Trouble with memory
- Severe dizziness, problems with balance, passing out
- Seizures getting worse
- Muscle spasms, twitching
- Slurred speech
- Upset stomach, vomiting or loss of appetite that is severe or does not go away

Possible less serious side effects of diazepam:

- Fatigue, loss of strength and energy
- Drowsiness, sedation
- Dizziness
- Headache

Other things to be aware of when using diazepam:

- Diazepam may cause drowsiness and/or blurred vision, which may impair physical or mental abilities. Use caution when performing activities that require being alert (for example: driving or operating equipment).
- Avoid drinking alcohol with diazepam since it can increase the risk of side effects.
- In some people who have dementia, diazepam may worsen irritation/agitation.

Contact the hospice team if you or your loved one's symptoms get worse or do not improve.

Reference: Clinical Pharmacology Last accessed 2.16.2024