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Nordiazepam and diazepam

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Diazepam is metabolized to several metabolites in the liver including temazepam, oxazepam, and nordiazepam (desmethyldiazepam), and the clearance of the drug is reduced considerably in older individuals and in patients with hepatic disease. Therapeutic assessment typically includes measurement of both the parent drug (diazepam) and the active metabolite (nordiazepam). Therapeutic concentrations Diazepam and Nordiazepam: 200-2,500 ng/mL For seizures: Serum concentrations are not usually monitored during early therapy because response to the drug can be monitored clinically as seizure control. If seizures resume despite adequate therapy, another anticonvulsant must be considered. Toxicity is commonly seen when diazepam plus nordiazepam concentrations exceed 3000 ng/mL. Adverse effects of benzodiazepines in therapeutic doses usually reflect the drug's pharmacology and include sedation, slurred speech, and ataxia. Respiratory depression/arrest may occur with large overdoses or following rapid intravenous injection with short-acting benzodiazepines. No significant cautionary statements 1. Langman LJ, Bechtel L, Holstege CP: Clinical toxicology. In: Burtis CA, Ashwood ER, Bruns DE, eds. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics. WB Saunders Company; 2011:1109-1188 2. Burtis CA, Ashwood ER, Bruns DE, eds. Tietz Textbook of Clinical Chemistry and Molecular Diagnostics. WB Saunders Company; 2011:Table 60.2 Alprazolam vs. diazepam quick comparison Diazepam (Valium) and alprazolam (Xanax XR, Niravam) are benzodiazepines used to treat anxiety. Both are available as generic drugs.Both drugs are in the same class as other benzodiazepines including clonazepam (Klonopin), lorazepam (Ativan), and flurazepam (Dalmane).Diazepam also is used for the treatment of agitation, tremors, delirium, seizures, and hallucinations resulting from alcohol withdrawal, while alprazolam also is used to treat panic attacks.Similar side effects of both diazepam and alprazolam include drowsiness, fatigue, speech problems, confusion, and memory problems.Different side effects for diazepam include diarrhea, rash, euphoria, and ataxia (loss of balance).Different side effects for alprazolam include constipation and changes in weight.Both diazepam and alprazolam can lead to addiction (dependency). Withdrawal symptoms include insomnia, headaches, nausea, vomiting, lightheadedness, sweating, anxiety, and fatigue. Seizures can occur in more severe cases of withdrawal.What is alprazolam? What is diazepam? How do they work? Alprazolam (Xanax XR, Niravam) is an anti-anxiety medication in the benzodiazepine family. It is used to treat anxiety disorders and panic attacks. Alprazolam and other benzodiazepines act by enhancing the effects of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) in the brain. GABA is a neurotransmitter (a chemical that nerve cells use to communicate with each other) that inhibits activity in the brain. It is believed that excessive activity in the brain may cause anxiety or other psychiatric disorders.Diazepam (Valium is an oral benzodiazepine medication used to treat anxiety. Diazepam also is used to treat agitation, tremors, delirium, seizures, and hallucinations resulting from alcohol withdrawal.What are the uses for alprazolam vs. diazepam? Alprazolam (Valium) usesAlprazolam (Xanax) is used for the treatment of anxiety disorders and panic attacksDiazepam usesDiazepam is used for the treatment of agitation, tremors, delirium, seizures, and hallucinations resulting from alcohol withdrawal.It is used for the treatment of seizures, relief of muscle spasms in some neurological diseases, and for sedation during surgery.What are the side effects of alprazolam vs. diazepam? Alprazolam side effectsAlprazolam is used for the treatment of anxiety disorders and panic attacks. Anxiety disorders are characterized by:Panic attacks occur either unexpectedly or in certain situations (for example, driving), and can require higher dosages of alprazolam.Diazepam side effectsThe most common side effects of diazepam are:DrowsinessFatigueDiarrheaRashEuphoriaAtaxia (loss of balance)Other important side effects include:Possible serious side effects:Respiratory depressionNeutropeniaDepressionAre alprazolam and diazepam addictive? Both alprazolam and diazepam can lead to addiction (dependency), especially when higher dosages are used over prolonged periods of time. In patients addicted to diazepam or after prolonged use, abrupt discontinuation may cause symptoms of withdrawal such as:InsomniaHeadachesNauseaVomitingLightheadednessSweatingAnxietyFatigueSeizures can occur in more severe cases of withdrawal. Therefore, after extended use, diazepam should be slowly tapered under a doctor's supervision rather than abruptly stopped. What is the dosage for alprazolam vs. diazepam? Alprazolam dosageThe starting dose for treating anxiety is 0.25-0.5 mg 3 to 4 times daily using immediate release tablets. The dose may be increased every 3-4 days to a maximum dose of 4 mg daily.The starting dose for treating panic attacks is 0.5 mg 3 times daily. Doses can be increased every 3-4 days but by no more than 1 mg daily.The effective dose for preventing panic attacks may be as high as 10 mg daily for some patients. The starting dose when using extended release tablets to treat panic disorder is 0.5 mg once daily and the average dose is 3-6 mg once daily.Alprazolam may be taken with or without food.Diazepam dosageDiazepam may be taken with or without food.Diazepam is disposed of by the liver and excreted mainly by the kidney. Dosages of diazepam may need to be lowered in patients with abnormal kidney function.The usual oral diazepam dose for anxiety or seizures is 2-10 mg given 2-4 times daily.The usual rectal dose is 0.2-0.5 mg/kg and depends on the age of the patient.What drugs interact with alprazolam vs. diazepam? Alprazolam drug interactionsDiazepam drug interactionsAlcohol or medications that cause sedation may add to the sedative effects of diazepam. Patients taking benzodiazepines should avoid such combinations.The following drugs may prolong the effects of diazepam by inhibiting liver enzymes that eliminate diazepam so dosages may need to be decreased when these drugs are used with diazepam.Carbamazepine (Tegretol), rifampin (Rifadin), and St. John's Wort decrease levels of diazepam by increasing the elimination of diazepam by liver enzymes.Are alprazolam and diazepam safe to take if I'm pregnant or breastfeeding? Benzodiazepines like alprazolam and diazepam can cause fetal abnormalities and should not be used during pregnancy.Both alprazolam and diazepam are excreted in breast milk, and can affect nursing infants. Therefore, diazepam should not be used by women who are nursing. Anxiety Disorder Pictures: Symptoms, Panic Attacks, and More with Pictures See Slideshow Procedures & Tests FAQs & Doctor's Views References FDA Prescribing Information.

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