

Benzodiazepines and hypnotics – What do you use?

January – March 2016

Number of responses = 141

1) Which one of the following drugs do you generally prescribe first-line for insomnia (assuming that you are not also trying to treat a concurrent indication such as neuropathic pain)?

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
Zopiclone	45	32%
Temazepam	34	24%
Lorazepam	19	13%
Zolpidem	18	13%
Diazepam	5	4%
Melatonin	6	4%
Trazodone	5	4%
Clonazepam	4	3%
Other	3	2%
Flurazepam	1	1%
Midazolam	2	1%
Nitrazepam	1	1%
Zaleplon	0	0%

2) Which of the following benzodiazepines do you generally prescribe for anxiety? (many_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of voters</i>
Lorazepam	92	65%
Diazepam	33	23%
Alprazolam	28	20%
Midazolam	26	18%
Other (9 responses were oxazepam)	15	11%
Clonazepam	11	8%
Nitrazepam	1	1%
Temazepam	2	1%

3) Which one of the following benzodiazepines do you generally prescribe for acute psychotic agitation?

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
Midazolam	58	41%
Lorazepam	32	23%
Other (19 responses were an antipsychotic)	27	19%
Diazepam	13	9%
Alprazolam	4	3%
Clonazepam	3	2%

4) Which one of the following drugs do you generally prescribe for terminal agitation?

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
Midazolam	108	77%
Lorazepam	17	12%
Other	9	6%
Clonazepam	6	4%

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5) Which one of the following drugs do you generally prescribe for breathlessness?

answer	votes	% of vote
Lorazepam	73	52%
Midazolam	33	23%
Other (6 responses were morphine)	20	14%
Diazepam	8	6%
Alprazolam	7	5%
Clonazepam	1	1%

6) Which one of the following drugs do you generally prescribe when a stat benzodiazepine is needed for acute seizures?

answer	votes	% of vote
Midazolam (Buccal, SC, IV or IM)	91	65%
Diazepam (PR)	18	13%
Lorazepam (SC, IV or IM)	15	11%
Clonazepam (SC - special order)	11	8%
Other (2 responses were diazepam IV)	5	4%

7) Which of the following drugs do you generally prescribe when a regular parenteral benzodiazepine is needed for prophylaxis against seizures? (many_of)

answer	votes	% of voters
Midazolam	71	50%
Clonazepam	39	28%
Diazepam	25	18%
Clobazam	8	6%
Other	9	6%

8) In the UK, clonazepam injection is now only available as a 'special order' product. Do you still use clonazepam injection?

answer	votes	% of vote
Not working in the UK	58	41%
No	51	36%
Yes, infrequently	16	11%
Yes, regularly	10	7%
Do not know	6	4%

9) a) If you work in the UK and still use clonazepam, please give further details of indications you use it for and how frequently it is prescribed on your unit.

Most (20/22) members who responded used clonazepam for neuropathic pain. This was mainly PO, 3rd or 4th line, or in cases where anxiety or insomnia were concurrent issues. However, the injection was specifically highlighted as useful in patients unable to take PO medication.