

HEALTH INNOVATION SERIES

Evidence based recommendations to improve care delivery and outcomes

Double dose trouble: systemic intranasal medication – Can you spot the problem?

The drop-down menu for midazolam (see Screenshot 1) contains numerous options including the route ‘Intranasal-Both’. However using the route ‘Intranasal-Both’ potentially doubles the dose.

An intended dose of 0.5mg/kg given in one nostril (once), can easily become a dose given in both nostrils to total 1mg/kg.

Local protocols may vary however reviewing the use of ‘Intranasal-Both’ for specific medication is recommended.

Alternatively, to prevent potential confusion, consider using a route specifying a single nostril when appropriate (see Screenshot 2).

Screenshot 2. Desmopressin order sentences including intranasal route

desmopressin 10 microg/inh nasal spray
desmopressin 10 microg/inh nasal spray
1 microg, Intranasal-Left, daily
desmopressin 10 microg/inh nasal spray
2 microg, Intranasal-Left, daily

Screenshot 1. Midazolam order sentences

- midazolam 0.3 mg/kg, Buccal, ONCE, Seizures/status epilepticus
- midazolam 0.2 mg/kg, Intramuscular, ONCE, PRN sedation
- midazolam 0.1 mg/kg, IV Bolus, ONCE, Sedation/seizures
- midazolam 0.15 mg/kg, IV Bolus, ONCE, Status epilepticus
- midazolam 0.5 mg/kg, Intranasal-Both, ONCE, Seizures/status epilepticus



SYSTEM OPTIMISATION TIP #1

Remove the route ‘Intranasal-Both’ for systemic medication administered via intranasal route (e.g. midazolam nasal inhalation, fentanyl nasal spray) from drop-down menus and order sentences.



SYSTEM OPTIMISATION TIP #2

To prevent potential confusion, use a route specifying a single nostril when appropriate (see Screenshot 2).



USER TIP

Do not use ‘Intranasal-Both’ for systemic intranasal medication.

REFERENCES

1. AMH Children's dosing companion online [Internet]. Adelaide (AU): Australian Medicines Handbook Pty Ltd; 2022 [cited 2022 Mar 10]. Available from: <https://amhonline-amh-net-au/>

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