Flumazenil should be administered intravenously by an anesthetist or experienced physician.

Flumazenil may be administered as injection or as infusion (for instructions on dilution of the product before administration, see chapter below). Flumazenil may be used concomitantly with other resuscitative measures. This medicinal product is for single use only. It should be inspected visually free from particles.

If no clear effect on awareness and respiration is obtained after repeated dosing with Flumazenil, the possibility should be considered that the indication is due to agents other than benzodiazepines.

If Flumazenil is used in anaesthesia at the end of surgery, it should not be given until the effects of the muscle relaxants have been fully reversed.

Children who have been sedated with Midazolam should be closely observed for at least 2 hours after Flumazenil administration, in case repeated sedation or difficulty with breathing occurs. When other benzodiazepines have been used the monitoring time must be adjusted based on how long their effects last.

How to store Flumazenil

When Flumazenil is to be used as an infusion, it must be diluted prior to use.

Flumazenil may be used concomitantly with other resuscitative measures.

The recommended starting dose for adults is 0.2 mg administered intravenously over 15 seconds. If the required level of consciousness is not obtained within 60 seconds, a further dose of 0.1 mg can be injected and repeated at 60-second intervals, up to a maximum dose of 1.0 mg.

The usual dose required lies between 0.3 and 0.6 mg, but may deviate depending on the patient’s characteristics and the benzodiazepine used.

Intensive Care

The recommended initial dose of Flumazenil for adults is 0.3 mg i.v. If the required level of consciousness is not obtained within 60 seconds, a further dose of 0.1 mg can be injected and repeated at 60-second intervals, up to a total dose of 2 mg or until the patient awakes.

If doziness recurs, an intravenous infusion of 0.1 – 0.4 mg/h may be used.

The rate of infusion should be adjusted individually to achieve the desired level of consciousness.

Children under the age of 1 year

There is little information on the use of Flumazenil in children less than 1 year old. Children of less than 1 year old should only be given Flumazenil if the benefits are expected to be greater than the risk.
Intensive Care

The recommended initial dose of Flumazenil is 0.3 mg i.v. If the required level of consciousness is not obtained within 60 seconds, a further dose of 0.1 mg can be injected and repeated at 60-second intervals, up to a total dose of 2 mg, until the patient awakens. If drowsiness recurs, an intravenous infusion of 0.1 – 0.4 mg/h may be useful. The rate of infusion should be adjusted individually to achieve the desired level of consciousness. If no clear effect on awareness and respiration is obtained after repeated dosing, it should be considered that the intoxication is not due to benzodiazepines.

Infusion should be discontinued every 6 hours to verify whether resedation occurs.

To avoid withdrawal symptoms in patients treated for a long period of time with high doses of benzodiazepines in the intensive care unit, the dosage of flumazenil has to be titrated individually and the injection has to be administered slowly.

Elderly

In the absence of data on the use of flumazenil in elderly patients, it should be noted that this population is generally more sensitive to the effects of medicinal products and should be treated with due caution.

5. HOW TO STORE FLUMAZENIL

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the label and carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 25°C.

This medicine is for single use only and should be used immediately after opening. If diluted, Flumazenil should not be refrigerated. Chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 24 hours at 25°C. From a microbiological point of view, unless the method of dilution precludes the risk of microbial contamination, the product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions are the responsibility of the user.

Flumazenil should only be used if the solution is clear and free from particles.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

What Flumazenil contains

The active substance is flumazenil.

Each ml of solution for injection contains 0.1 mg flumazenil.

Each 5 ml ampoule contains 0.5 mg flumazenil.

Each 10 ml ampoule contains 1.0 mg flumazenil.

The other ingredients are:

• disodium edetate
• glacial acetic acid
• sodium chloride (3.7 mg per ml)
• hydrochloric acid 36% for pH adjustment
• sodium hydroxide for pH adjustment
• water for Injections

What Flumazenil looks like and contents of the pack

Flumazenil is a clear and colourless solution for injection, or for dilution before infusion. Flumazenil comes in colourless glass ampoules.

Following pack sizes are available:

Carton boxes with 5 or 50 (10x5) ampoules containing 5 ml solution.

Carton boxes with 5 or 50 (10x5) ampoules containing 10 ml solution

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation Holder
Hikma Farmacêutica (Portugal), S.A.
Estrada do Rio da Mô, 8, 8A e 8B – Fervença
2705-906 Terregem SNT, Portugal
Tel.: –351 219 608 410, Fax: –351 219 615 102
e-mail: portugalgeral@hikma.com

Manufacturer
Hikma Italia SpA
Viale Certosa, 10, 27100 Pavia, Italy

Distributed by:
Consilient Health (UK) Ltd.
No.1 Church Road, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey, TW9 2OE

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Pediatric population

Children above 1 year of age

For the reversal of conscious sedation induced with benzodiazepines in children >1 year of age, the recommended initial dose is 0.1 mg/kg, administered intravenously over 15 seconds. If the desired level of consciousness is not obtained after waiting an additional 45 seconds, further injection of 0.1 mg/kg may be administered (up to 200micrograms) and repeated at 60 second intervals where necessary (a maximum of 4 times) to maximum total dose of 50 micrograms/kg or 1mg, whichever is lower. The dose should be individualised based on the patient’s response. No data available on the safety and efficacy of repeated administration of flumazenil to children for re-sedation.

Children under the age of 1 year

There are insufficient data on the use of flumazenil in children under 1 year.

Therefore flumazenil should only be administered in children under 1 year if the potential benefit to the patient outweigh the possible risk.

Patients with renal or hepatic impairment

Since flumazenil is primarily metabolized in the liver, careful titration of dosage is recommended in patients with impaired hepatic function. No dosage adjustments are required in patients with renal impairment.

Unknown

Allergic reactions (hypersensitivity), including severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

Panic attack (a feeling of impending doom). The panic attack may be accompanied by sweating, rapid heartbeat, and trembling.

Anxiety

Nausea

Vomiting

Abdominal cramps

Abdominal pain

Diarrhoea

Irritability

Confusion

Dizziness

Weakness

Tremor

Fatigue

Muscle stiffness

Increased sweating

Chills

Redness of the face and neck (flushing)

If you have any further questions on the use of Flumazenil, ask your doctor.