



EPILEPSY & Medication

Diazepam Rectal Gel (Diastat®)

Used for:

- Intermittent bouts of distinctive seizure clusters in selected patients ages two years and older who are not controlled on their anti-epileptic medication regimen.
- Adjunctive therapy only.
- Seizure clusters must be identifiably different from the patient's ordinary seizure activity.

Precautions:

- Diastat is a gel formulation of diazepam (a benzodiazepine anticonvulsant) which is not recommended for chronic daily use as an anticonvulsant. Drug tolerance or dependence and increased seizures can develop if used too frequently.
- Diastat should only be administered by trained caregivers who can identify characteristic seizure clusters and monitor the patient's response.
- Inform your doctor if you have glaucoma, liver, kidney, or respiratory problems before you take Diastat.
- Tell your doctor if you consume alcohol on a regular basis or take drugs or any medicines, including non-prescription.
- While using this drug, refrain from activities requiring mental alertness or physical coordination (e.g. operating hazardous machines, driving or riding a bicycle).
- Not recommended for women of childbearing potential.
- Elderly patients should use caution.

Possible side effects:

Depending on the individual, side effects may occur at varying degrees or not at all, including:

- Sleepiness.
- Headaches.
- Dizziness.
- Pain, abdominal pain.
- Nervousness.
- Blood vessel dilation.
- Diarrhea.
- Incoordination, impaired motor skills.
- Weakness.
- Hiccup.
- Euphoria, impaired judgment.
- Asthma.
- Inflamed nasal membranes.
- Rash.
- Respiratory depression (rare).



This material has been reviewed by the Ontario Drug Information and Research Centre and is offered to provide general information to the public. Its is not intended to be taken as medical advice. Epilepsy Toronto and its advisors accept no liability. Consult you physician and/or neurologist with any questions you may have.

Allergic Reaction/Idiosyncratic

- Skin rash (if you notice a rash, seek immediate medical help).
- Hyperexcited states.

If you notice any other unusual or bothersome side effects while using Diastat, consult your physician.

Tips For Using Diazepam Rectal Gel (Diastat®):

- Dosage should be reviewed at 6-month intervals to reflect changes in patient's age or weight
- A 2.5 mg dose is available as a supplemental dose or as a partial replacement dose for patients who may expel a portion of the first dose.
- Diazepam Rectal Gel should only be administered by caregivers who are able to distinguish which seizure activity it should be used for and have been trained how to administer the treatment and monitor the patient's response.
- If you notice any bothersome or unusual side effects from Diastat, check with your doctor or pharmacist right away.

Drug Interactions:

Ages 2-5 years: 0.5mg/kg.

Ages 6-11 years: 0.3 mg/kg.

Ages 12 and older: 0.2 mg/kg.

- Diastat is provided in fixed-dose units. The prescribed dose is determined by rounding up to the next available dosage form. However, for the elderly and debilitated patients, the dosage should be adjusted downward to reduce possible side effects.
- A second dose, when required, may be given 4-12 hours after the first dose if so prescribed.
- Diastat should be used to treat no more than five episodes per month and no more than one episode every five days.

Supplied:

Rectal Delivery System-Plastic applicator (with flexible tip available in Pediatric or Adult length) containing prefilled, unit-doses of either 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg or 20 mg.

Storage:

Store at room temperature (15 to 30°C), protect from light heat and moisture and keep out of reach of children.

In Pregnancy:

- Not recommended during pregnancy unless the clinical situation warrants the risk to the fetus.
- MotherRisk at (416) 813-6780 can be of assistance in discussing medication risks to mother and fetus.
- Women who are considering pregnancy should first consult their doctor.
- Breast feeding is not recommended while on Diastat.

Diastat is not recommended for chronic, daily use as an anticonvulsant because of the potential for developing tolerance as well as actually increasing tonic clonic seizures. In such cases, abrupt withdrawal may also be associated with a temporary increase in seizures as well as other withdrawal symptoms. When there is a need for reduction, discontinuation or substitution of the medication, this should be done gradually and under the physician's care.