

Diazepam rectal gel (Diastat)



What is diazepam rectal gel?

Diazepam rectal gel is an emergency medicine used to stop seizures. It is given into the rectum. The rectum is the opening in the body where stool (bowel movement) is passed.

Why is diazepam rectal gel used?

Diazepam rectal gel:

- Is a fast way to give medicine to a child who cannot swallow at that moment.
- Works faster than oral medicines (those that must be swallowed).

When does my child need it?

Use the medicine only as advised by your child's doctor. Some guidelines include:

- It may be used when someone is having an active seizure, lasting 5 minutes or longer.
- It may be used when someone has 3 or more seizures in 1 hour.
- It should NOT be used as a maintenance medicine to prevent seizures.

What dose of diazepam rectal gel does my child need?

- The doctor will prescribe the dose that is right for your child. Follow the doctor's directions carefully.
- Your child's dose is based on their age and weight.
- Sometimes 1 dose is not enough. Your child's doctor may tell you to give a second dose if needed.
Only do this if your child's doctor tells you to.

How do I prepare and give the dose of diazepam rectal gel?

Your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist can teach you how to prepare and give the medicine. See [page 3](#) for step-by-step pictures of how to give diazepam rectal gel.

What are some possible side effects?

Your child may have one or more of these:

- Feel sleepy
- Feel dizzy
- Headache
- Diarrhea (loose or liquid stool)
- Feel shaky
- Feel unsteady, tremble or have other problems with muscle control or coordination

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Diazepam rectal gel (Diastat), continued

When should I call the doctor?

Call your child's doctor if you have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

When should I call 911?

Call 911 **right away** if:

- Your child has serious breathing problems.
- Your child has chest retractions (skin pulling in around the ribs and chest when breathing).
- Your child has a blue or dark purple color to the nails, lips or gums.
- You have to give a dose of diazepam rectal gel.

Where do I get the medicine?

Your child's doctor will give you a prescription for diazepam rectal gel. Talk with the nurse or doctor about what stores have this medicine.

How do I store the diazepam rectal gel?

After you pick up the medicine from the store:

- Remove the syringe from the case.
- Make sure you can see the dose. Check to make sure the dose is what your child's doctor prescribed.
- Make sure you can see the green "READY" band.
- Put the syringe back in the case.
- Store the medicine in a place that stays 59°F to 86°F.

What medicine safety tips should I know?

- Always read the label before giving medicine to your child.
- Keep all medicines in their labeled container where your child cannot get to them. If possible, store medicines in a locked cabinet.
- Return medicines to the pharmacy to dispose of after their expiration date on the container.
- Tell the doctor, dentist and the emergency department (ED) about any medicines your child is taking. Take the medicines with you.
- Call the Georgia Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222 or call 911 **right away** if your child takes too much medicine or has a bad reaction to medicine.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

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Diazepam rectal gel (Diastat), continued

How do I prepare and give the dose of diazepam rectal gel?

1



Gather your supplies:

- Diazepam rectal gel prefilled syringe
- Lubricating jelly packet

2



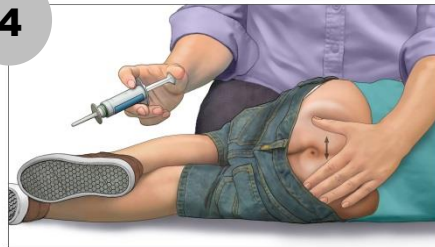
- Remove the cap from the syringe.
- Cover the syringe tip with lubricating jelly.

3



- Place your child somewhere they cannot fall.
- Turn them on their side facing you.
- Bend their upper leg forward to see the rectum.

4



Separate buttocks to see the rectum.

5



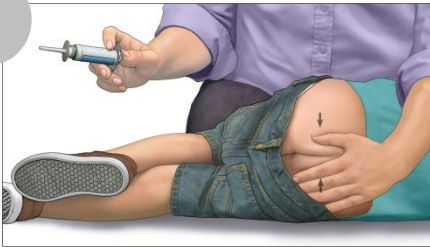
Gently put the lubricated syringe tip into the rectum.

6



- **The rim of the syringe should be snug against rectal opening.**
- Slowly count to 3 while gently pushing the plunger until it stops.
- Slowly count to 3 before removing the syringe.

7



Slowly count to 3 while holding buttocks together to prevent the medicine from leaking.

8



- Keep your child on their side facing you.
- Take note of the time.
- Keep watching your child.

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