

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- If any of the side effects become serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.
- This leaflet does not substitute the advice of your doctor who is trained to take care of you during your operation or during your time in intensive care.

Flumazenil 0.1 mg/ml Injection

The name of your medicine is Flumazenil 0.1 mg/ml Injection, which will be referred to as Flumazenil throughout this leaflet.

In this leaflet:

1. What Flumazenil is and what it is used for
2. Before you are given Flumazenil
3. How Flumazenil is given
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Flumazenil
6. Further information

1. WHAT FLUMAZENIL IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Flumazenil is a counteragent (antidote) for the complete or partial reversal of the effects of benzodiazepines. Benzodiazepines are a specific group with sedative, sleep inducing and muscle relaxing properties.

Flumazenil is used to treat poisoning or overdose with benzodiazepines. Flumazenil can also be used by an anaesthetist to wake you up after certain diagnostic tests, after you have been under complete narcosis (sleep) for an operation or if you have been in intensive care under sedation.

2. BEFORE YOU ARE GIVEN FLUMAZENIL

Flumazenil will be given to you by a specially trained doctor under strict supervision.

Do not receive Flumazenil:

- if you are **allergic** (hypersensitive) to Flumazenil or any of the ingredients (see section 6 for a complete list of ingredients).
- if you are taking benzodiazepines to control a life-threatening condition such as an increase in brain pressure (raised intracranial pressure) or a serious epileptic seizure (status epilepticus).
- if you are showing signs of an overdose with a type of medicine used to treat depression called tricyclic or tetracyclic antidepressants. These medicines include amitriptyline, nortriptyline, clomipramine and imipramine. Signs of overdose include enlargement of pupils, urine retention, dry mouth, agitation, difficulty breathing, fits, disturbances in the heartbeat and coma.

Take special care with Flumazenil

Check with your doctor or nurse before receiving Flumazenil:

- if you have epilepsy and have taken benzodiazepines for a long period. Flumazenil can cause seizures.
- if you suffer from heart disease.
- if you have liver problems.
- if you have or in the past have had a serious head injury Flumazenil can cause increased pressure in your brain.
- if you were anxious before an operation or had an anxious seizure or have long term anxiety.
- if you had panic attacks in the past. Flumazenil can cause new attacks.
- if you had long-term or high dosage treatment of benzodiazepines. A rapid injection of Flumazenil at a dose higher than 1 mg can cause withdrawal symptoms.
- if you have a history of alcoholism or other substance abuse you have a higher risk of benzodiazepine tolerance and dependence and therefore a higher risk

of withdrawal symptoms. Your anaesthetist will adjust your dose carefully.

- if you are taking any other medicines, even those you bought over the counter, herbal preparations or dietary supplements.
- if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or are breast-feeding.

Beware also the following:

Flumazenil only reverses the effects of benzodiazepines.

- if lowering of consciousness or sedation is caused by another agent, it is unlikely that Flumazenil will counteract it.
- although Flumazenil is given to reverse drowsiness, you may experience a return of drowsiness for up to 24 hours after Flumazenil is given. This is because the sedative effects of Benzodiazepines lasts longer than the anti-sedative effects of Flumazenil. Therefore you will be monitored, if possible in intensive care, until all possible effects of the benzodiazepine have worn off.
- if you undergo an operation that is particularly invasive and causes a lot of pain, the anaesthetist may keep you in a sedated condition.
- Flumazenil is not recommended to treat benzodiazepine addiction or the symptoms of it.

Taking other medicines

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. This information is needed so that your anaesthetist can adjust your dose carefully.

In particular please tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- zopiclone and triazolopyridazine (used to treat insomnia)
- benzodiazepines (e.g. diazepam, midazolam)
- tricyclic or tetracyclic antidepressants like amitriptyline and imipramine

Children

Flumazenil is not recommended for use in children under 1 year of age. However, the doctor may decide to give Flumazenil to a child, if it is considered necessary.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

The risk to the unborn foetus in humans has not been determined, therefore, Flumazenil is not recommended for use during pregnancy, unless the benefits to the patient clearly outweigh the risks to the unborn foetus, such as in a life-threatening, emergency situation.

It is not known whether Flumazenil is excreted in breast milk. Therefore it is better not to breast-feed for 24 hours after Flumazenil has been given.

Driving and using machines

The effect of Flumazenil is shorter than the effect of benzodiazepines and so it is possible that you may feel sleepy again. Do not drive motor vehicles and do not operate any tools or machines for a period of 24 hours after the administration of Flumazenil.



Important information about some of the ingredients of Flumazenil

This medicinal product contains 3.7 mg sodium per ml solution for injection. This should be taken into account if you are on a controlled sodium diet.

3. HOW FLUMAZENIL IS GIVEN

Flumazenil is administered in the vein (intravenously) either diluted or undiluted. Flumazenil will be given to you under strict supervision of a doctor with experience in anaesthesia. The doctor will determine how much Flumazenil to give. Flumazenil can be used in combination with other agents, which are used to return somebody to consciousness.

Adults

The dosage depends on the situation and can range from 0.2 milligrams to a maximum dose of 1 milligram in anaesthesia and 2 milligrams in intensive care.

Children and adolescents (from 1 to 17 years of age)

The dosage ranges from 0.01 milligrams per kilogram to 0.05 milligrams per kilogram. The maximum dose should not exceed 0.05 mg/kg body weight respectively a maximum dose of 1 mg.

Flumazenil is not recommended for use in children under 1 year of age unless recommended by a doctor.

Elderly

Elderly people are generally more sensitive to the effects of Flumazenil and should be treated with due caution.

Patients with liver impairment

If you have liver problems your doctor may give you a reduced dose.

If you have any further questions on how this product will be given, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Flumazenil can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. If any of the side effects become serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

If you experience any of the following tell the doctor or nurse immediately. Flumazenil may cause allergic reactions. Symptoms of allergic reactions include, swelling of the face, lips throat or tongue, rash and difficulty breathing.

Very common (experienced in 1 out of 10 patients):

- nausea

Common (experienced in 1 out of 100, but less than in 1 out of 10 patients):

- allergic reactions

- strong emotional lability
- having problems in initiating and maintaining sleep (insomnia)
- feeling sleepy (somnolence)
- dizziness
- headache
- involuntary trembling or quivering (tremor)
- dry mouth
- hyperventilation
- speech disorder
- individual cutaneous sensations (e.g. cold, warmth, tingling, pressure, etc.) in the absence of stimulation (paresthesia)
- double vision
- strabismus (a condition in which the eyes are not properly aligned with each other)
- increase in lacrimation
- reddening of the skin
- low blood pressure on transition from lying to standing
- transient increased blood pressure
- vomiting
- hiccup
- sweating
- fatigue

- pain at the injection site

Common after rapid injection (not requiring treatment):

- anxiety
- agitation
- heart palpitations

Uncommon (experienced in 1 out of 1,000, but less than in 1 out of 100 patients):

- convulsions
- abnormal hearing
- slow or rapid heart action
- premature beat of your heart (extrasystole)
- difficulty in breathing
- cough
- nasal congestion
- chest pain
- shivering

If you have been treated with benzodiazepines for long periods Flumazenil can induce withdrawal symptoms such as tension, agitation, anxiety, confusion, hallucinations, tremor and convulsions.

In general the undesirable effects in children do not differ much from that in adults. When using Flumazenil to awake a child from sedation, abnormal crying, agitation and aggressive behaviour have been reported.

5. HOW TO STORE FLUMAZENIL

Keep Flumazenil out of the reach and sight of children.

Your doctor and pharmacist are responsible for the suitable storage, use and disposal of Flumazenil. After opening the solution has to be used immediately.

Flumazenil has to be kept below 25°C. Do not use Flumazenil after the expiry date which is stated on the packaging after "Exp.:". The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Flumazenil should not be used if the solution is cloudy or contains particles.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Flumazenil contains

The **active substance** is flumazenil.

1 ml Flumazenil 0.1 mg/ml is a solution for injection that contains 0.1 mg flumazenil per ml.

Each ampoule with 5 ml Flumazenil 0.1 mg/ml contains 0.5 mg flumazenil.

Each ampoule with 10 ml Flumazenil 0.1 mg/ml contains 1.0 mg flumazenil.

The **other ingredients** are disodium edetate, acetic acid, sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide and water for injections.

What Flumazenil looks like and contents of the pack

Flumazenil is a clear and colourless solution in glass ampoules.

The following packaging sizes are available:

Carton boxes with 5 or 10 ampoules containing 5 ml solution for injection.

Carton boxes with 5 or 10 ampoules containing 10 ml solution for injection.

Not all packaging sizes may be marked.

Marketing Authorisation Holder

hameln pharma plus gmbh
Langes Feld 13, 31789 Hameln, Germany

Distributor

hameln pharmaceuticals ltd
Gloucester, United Kingdom

Manufacturer

hameln pharmaceuticals gmbh
Langes Feld 13, 31789 Hameln, Germany

Flumazenil 0.1 mg/ml Injection is registered under PL 25215/0001.

This leaflet was last approved in June 2008.