

## **FLUMAZENIL (Romazicon)**

### **PHARMACOLOGIC CLASSIFICATION:**

-benzodiazepine antagonist

### **THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:**

-antidote

### **MAIN INDICATIONS:**

-treatment of benzodiazepine overdose/toxicity (deliberate or as a result of treatment)

- alprazolam (Xanax)
- chlordiazepoxide (Librium)
- clonazepam (Klonopin)
- diazepam (Valium)
- lorazepam (Ativan)
- midazolam (Versed)

### **MECHANISM OF ACTION:**

-antagonizes the action of benzodiazepines on the CNS and inhibits activity at benzodiazepine receptor sites (diazepam (Valium), lorazepam (Ativan), midazolam (Versed), alprazolam (Xanax), triazolam (Halcion)

-does not antagonize the CNS effects of ethanol, general anesthetics, barbiturates, or opiates

### **CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

-hypersensitivity to flumazenil or benzodiazepines

-patients who have been given a benzodiazepine to control status epilepticus

-patients who have signs of tricyclic antidepressant overdoses

### **PRECAUTIONS:**

-head injury (may cause seizures)

-history of seizures

-panic disorders (may cause panic disorders)

-may precipitate seizures in patients with mixed drug overdoses (cardiac dysrhythmias, convulsions)

### **MAJOR SIDE EFFECTS:**

-vertigo

-nausea/vomiting

-flushing

-arrhythmias

-seizures (most common side effect)—CNS stimulation

-ataxia

-anxiety, nervousness

-paranoia, delirium

### **INTERACTIONS:**

-mixed drug overdose (it can obscure symptoms of poisoning by drugs that can cause seizures or arrhythmias, such as antidepressants)

### **DOSAGE:**

-0.2 mg IV over 15-30 seconds

-follow with additional doses of 0.2 mg at 1 minute intervals until desired effect is reached

-maximum cumulative dose is 3.0 mg

**SPECIAL INFORMATION:**

- reversal of sedative effects is consistent
- reversal of respiratory depression is less predictable
- all benzodiazepines have a longer half-life than flumazenil (0.7 – 1.3 hours) necessitating repeated administration of the drug

