

LORAZEPAM
(Ativan)

PHARMACOLOGIC CLASSIFICATION:

-benzodiazepine

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION:

-anti-anxiety agent
-sedative/hypnotic

MAIN INDICATIONS:

-sedation and relief of anxiety, tension, agitation; induce amnesia
-status epilepticus/anti-convulsant
-alcohol withdrawal

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

-depresses the CNS/rapid onset
-produces antianxiety effect

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

-coma
-pre-existing CNS depression
-uncontrolled severe pain
-hypersensitivity to benzodiazepines
-narrow-angle glaucoma
-alcohol intoxication/patients taking sedatives
-pregnant patients
-hypotension

MAJOR SIDE EFFECTS:

-bradycardia
-hypotension
-respiratory depression
-drowsiness
-insomnia
-agitation
-depression
-headache

INTERACTIONS:

-potentiates the CNS depressant effects of:
-narcotics
-phenothiazines
-barbiturates
-alcohol

DOSAGE:

-0.05 mg/kg IV push (dilute in equal volume of NaCl) not to exceed 2 mg/min

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

-appears to be more effective and longer acting than diazepam
-may be useful in acute agitation state often associated with cocaine use
-expires in 6 weeks if not refrigerated
-never administer it unless you are ready to resuscitate
-flumazenil can reverse adverse side effects