Guidelines for Use of LORazepam (Ativan®)

Recommended Neonatal Dose, Route, and Interval

- IV/PO Dosing: 0.05-0.1mg/kg/dose, repeat doses based on clinical response
- Give slow IV push over 5 minutes

Indications

- Status epilepticus
- Sedation

Possible Adverse Reactions

- Respiratory depression
- Sedation, CNS depression
- Hypotension, bradycardia
- Myoclonic jerks
- Antidote: Flumazenil 0.01 mg/kg/dose IV push. May repeat every minute for up to 4 more doses.

CONTRAINDICATIONS/PRECAUTIONS:

- Hypersensitivity to lorazepam. May see cross-sensitivity with other benzodiazepines.
- CNS depression, uncontrolled pain, severe hypotension
- Abrupt discontinuation after prolonged use may precipitate withdrawal or seizures.

Nursing Implications

- Monitor respiratory status, heart rate, blood pressure, and level of sedation.
- Lorazepam provides no pain relief. Agitation may be due to pain and infant should be assessed for need of pain medication.
- Sedation onset: PO within 60 minutes, IM 30-60 minutes, IV 15-30 minutes

References:
1. Neofax 2010

Reviewed/Revised: 02/2011 by

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