

700 Children's Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2696
nationwidechildrens.org

DIAZEPAM RECTAL GEL (DIASTAT®)

Your child's doctor has recommended Diastat® to help control some of your child's seizures. This medicine is used as an easy and painless way to help control *cluster seizures* or stop prolonged seizures. It can be given by parents or other caregivers who know the child's seizure patterns.

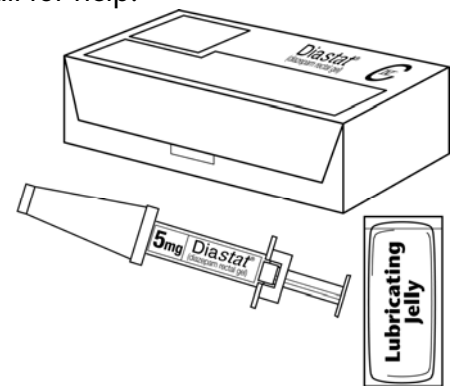
Cluster seizures are also called *acute repetitive seizures*. During these episodes, one seizure ends and another follows soon after. Prolonged seizures are seizures that last longer than 5 minutes. Both cluster and prolonged seizures are hard to stop, and often result in a trip to the Emergency Room. By giving Diastat you may be able to stop the seizure and avoid a trip to the ER. The seizures should stop in 5 minutes after giving Diastat. If they continue after 5 minutes, call for help.

If your child has had a reaction to diazepam (Valium®) in the past, talk with your doctor before using Diastat.

WHEN TO CALL FOR EMERGENCY HELP

Call for help if any of the following occur:

- Seizures continue 5 minutes after giving Diastat.
- The seizure happens a lot more often or is more severe compared to other times.
- Your child's color or breathing worries you.
- Other unusual or serious problems that concern you.



Picture 1 Diastat medication kit

Emergency Phone Number _____ Doctor's Phone Number _____

DOCTOR'S ORDER	Child's name _____ Date _____
	Age _____ Weight _____ Height _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diastat is given rectally (in the child's bottom). It comes in a plastic-tipped syringe as a pre-filled and measured dose (Picture 1). Your child's dose is _____. ▪ Give Diastat after _____ minutes of seizure activity. ▪ Give Diastat after _____ seizures in _____ hour(s). ▪ Diastat does not take the place of your child's other medicines. Do not stop giving any other medicines without first speaking with your child's doctor. 	

WHY DIASTAT IS GIVEN BY RECTUM

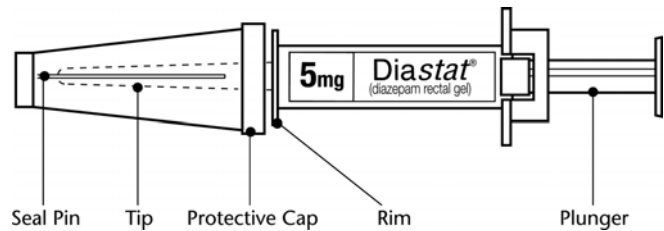
When your child is having a seizure, it may be hard to take medicines by mouth. A pill might cause choking. Other types of medicine must be given by a medical professional, but Diastat can be given by other caregivers. When medicine is given rectally, it is absorbed into the child's system very quickly.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

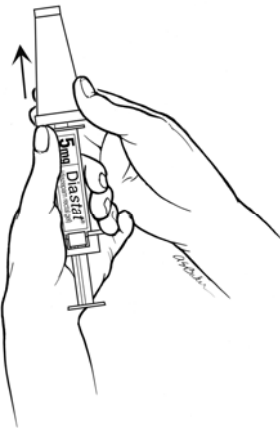
The most common side effect of Diastat is sleepiness. Other side effects may include:

- Skin rash
- Dizziness
- Nervousness
- Headache
- Stuffy nose
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Feeling unsteady or clumsy
- Wheezing

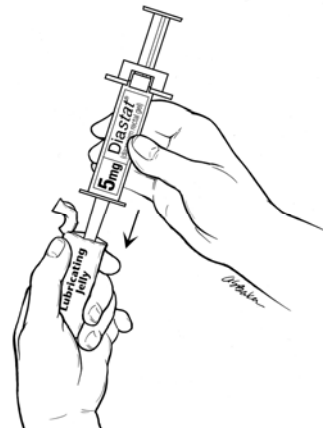
HOW TO GIVE DIASTAT



1. Place your child on his side where he can't fall.
2. Open the medicine kit and take out the syringe.



3. Push up with your thumb and pull to remove protective cap from syringe.



4. Lubricate rectal tip with lubricating jelly.



5. Turn your child on the side facing you.



6. Bend the upper leg forward so you can see the rectum.



7. Separate the buttocks so you can see the rectum.



8. Gently insert the syringe tip into the rectum. The rim should be snug against the rectal opening.



9. Slowly count out loud to three...1...2...3 while gently pushing plunger in until it stops.



10. Slowly count to 3 before removing syringe from rectum.



11. Slowly count to 3 while holding buttocks together to prevent leakage.



12. Keep your child on his side facing you. Note the time and continue to watch your child.

SAFETY AND STORAGE

- Diastat does not need to be refrigerated, but it should be kept in a place that does not get too hot or too cold.
- When your doctor decides this medicine is no longer needed, flush the remaining medicine down the sink or toilet.