Midazolam is a member of the benzodiazepine family. It is a CNS depressant, muscle relaxant, anticonvulsant, and anterograde amnesic agent. Versed intensifies activity of gamma-aminobenzoic acid (GABA), a major inhibitory neurotransmitter of the brain, by interfering with its re-uptake and promoting its accumulation at neuronal synapses. It has no effect on pain and has less muscle relaxant properties than diazepam.

Indications and Administration:

1. Sedation prior to an uncomfortable or painful procedure (pacing, cardioversion), or as an adjunct to pain relief in orthopedic injuries.
    a. **Adult –** 2.5 to 5 mg slow IV/IO push or MAD.
    b. **Pediatric -** 0.3 mg/kg slow IV/IO push or MAD.
2. Sedation prior to RSI and sedation post intubation.
    a. **Adult –** 0.1mg/kg slow IV push.
    b. **Pediatric** - 0.3 mg/kg slow IV push.
3. Treatment of status seizures when IV or IO access is impractical.
    a. **Adult** – 2.5 to 5mg MAD
    b. **Pediatric** – 0.3 mg/kg MAD

Notes:

1. Primary adverse effect is respiratory depression or respiratory arrest. This effect is increased if the medication is given rapidly. Be ready to ventilate the patient.
2. Due to its minimal effects on the cardiovascular system, Etomidate is a better drug for pre-RSI sedation.
3. Contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to the drug, hypotension and underlying cardiopulmonary compromise.