Off Label Use of Benzodiazepines

Roche is aware of the use of benzodiazepines as part of a drug combination used for executions under the death penalty in the U.S.

Roche did and does not supply Midazolam and Diazepam for use under the death penalty and would not knowingly provide any of our medicines for this purpose. Roche’s focus is on developing innovative medicines and diagnostic tests that help patients live longer, better lives.

Roche discovered Midazolam in the 1970s as a treatment for acute seizures, moderate to severe insomnia, and for inducing sedation and amnesia before medical procedures. Roche discovered Valium in the 1960s as a treatment for anxiety, to relax muscles, to treat trembling, confusional states or anxiety associated with alcohol withdrawal, and/or to treat panic attacks.

In 2004, Roche discontinued the manufacture and distribution of Midazolam in the U.S. for business reasons during a reevaluation of our product portfolio of medicines that are now available from generic manufacturers.