



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

BORKENSTEIN
COURSE

Center for Studies
of Law in Action

Lorazepam and Driving Impairment

by
Jayne E. Thatcher

Lorazepam

Lorazepam (Ativan®), is a benzodiazepine frequently used to manage anxiety and as a sedative. Common side effects include sedation, dizziness, weakness, unsteadiness, and disorientation. Consequently lorazepam can have a significant effect on driving ability. This presentation will begin with a brief review of the general pharmacology, chemistry, and pharmacokinetic profiles of lorazepam. Challenges in detecting lorazepam will be presented. The majority of time will be spent discussing the demographics, DRE observations, driving behaviors and other findings in drug impaired drivers testing positive for lorazepam.