

Clonazepam

If you have anxiety or panic disorder, or you suffer from seizures, you may be prescribed Clonazepam.

Its brand name is Klonopin.

To understand how Clonazepam works, let's look at how anxiety and panic disorder affects your body.

Your brain is constantly firing information and messages to the rest of your body, telling you how to think, how to feel and what to do.

When you are faced with a situation that makes you anxious or causes you to panic, your brain puts you in a state of alert and gets you ready to face the situation.

When it passes, the nerve signals in your brain slow down and your body calms. But when you suffer from anxiety or panic disorders, your brain can't turn off that state of alert.

Clonazepam enhances a chemical in the brain called GABA, which helps calm you down. And it slows pain signals going down the spine to help reduce muscle spasms.

Clonazepam comes in a tablet or wafer, which dissolves on your tongue.

Your doctor will decide how much you need to take but dosages range from 0.5 mg to 2 mg.

Clonazepam is a powerful medication. Some people should not take it.

Do not take Clonazepam if you are allergic to other anti-anxiety medications like Xanax or Valium.

Do not take Clonazepam if you have severe liver disease or certain types of glaucoma.

If you are pregnant or planning to get pregnant, tell your healthcare provider before taking Clonazepam. Do not breastfeed while taking it.

Before taking Clonazepam, tell your healthcare provider if you have a history of: liver or kidney problems, asthma or other breathing problems, glaucoma, depression or suicidal thoughts.

Clonazepam can be highly addictive. If you have a history of abuse of: street drugs, prescription medications, or alcohol, tell your healthcare provider. There may be a different medication available for you.

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Before taking Clonazepam, give your healthcare provider a complete list of all other medications you use, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.

Some side effects of Clonazepam include: dizziness, feeling tired, feeling lightheaded, clumsiness, confusion, or coughing.

If you do notice any of these side effects contact your doctor about how to manage them.

When you are taking Clonazepam be aware that...

You are at an increased risk of falling...

Your ability to drive a car or operate heavy machinery can be affected...

Clonazepam can increase the effects of alcohol...

Call 911 if you have an allergic reaction like: trouble breathing, hives, or swelling of your face or throat.

Or if you have: hallucinations or unusual behaviors, suicidal thoughts, trouble breathing, fast or pounding heartbeats, or your seizures get worse.

Get help right away!

This is not the complete list of side effects. Make sure you discuss all possible side effects with your healthcare provider.

Remember to take Clonazepam exactly as prescribed.

If you think you have taken too much Clonazepam, call 911. An overdose of Clonazepam can lead to death.

Store Clonazepam at room temperature, not too hot or too cold, away from moisture and direct sunlight.

Keep it out of sight and out of reach of any children.

Clonazepam can help you manage anxiety, panic or seizures. But it is a powerful medication that should only be taken exactly as prescribed.

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If you have any questions about Clonazepam, ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

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