

# Ativan

If you have anxiety, or seizures, you may be prescribed Ativan.

Its generic name is Lorazepam.

To understand how Ativan works, let's look at what causes anxiety.

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, 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 your brain can't turn off that state of alert, making it difficult to calm down.

Ativan enhances a chemical in the brain called GABA, which helps calm down the signals that are firing in your brain so you can relax.

Ativan comes in a tablet or liquid. Your healthcare provider will decide how much you need to take and how best to take it but tablets come in 0.5 milligrams, 1 milligram and 2 milligram dosages.

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

Do not take Ativan if you are allergic to the ingredients in it or if you are allergic to other anti-anxiety medications like Xanax or Valium.

Do not take Ativan if you are pregnant. This medication can harm your baby. If you are breastfeeding, tell your healthcare provider before using Ativan.

A different medication may be safer for you and your baby.

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

Ativan 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.

Before taking Ativan, 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 Ativan include: drowsiness, trouble remembering things, muscle weakness, blurred vision, change in appetite, headache, and confusion.

# Ativan

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

When you are taking Ativan be aware that...

You are at an increased risk of falling...

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

Ativan 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, confusion, thoughts of hurting yourself or others, or if you feel like you are going to pass out.

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.

Take Ativan exactly as prescribed.

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

Store Ativan tablets 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.

Liquid Ativan should be kept in your refrigerator.

Ativan can help relieve your anxiety and help you get the sleep you need. But it is a powerful medication that should only be taken exactly as prescribed.

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