

# Lorazepam

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

Its brand name is Ativan.

To understand how Lorazepam 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.

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

Lorazepam 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.

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

Do not take Lorazepam 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 Lorazepam if you are pregnant. This medication can harm your baby.

If you are breastfeeding, tell your healthcare provider before using Lorazepam.

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

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

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

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

When you are taking Lorazepam be aware that...

You are at an increased risk of falling...

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

Lorazepam 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 Lorazepam exactly as prescribed.

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

Store Lorazepam 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 Lorazepam should be kept in your refrigerator.

Lorazepam 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 Lorazepam, ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.