

Clonazepam

Usage

Clonazepam is an anticonvulsant used to control seizures (fits). It can be useful in several types of seizures such as epileptic spasms and myoclonic seizures. It is usually used with other anticonvulsants in epilepsies that are difficult to control. It can also be used for the emergency treatment of seizures or clusters of seizures. Clonazepam must be prescribed by a doctor. You should never give your child anyone else's medications.

Side Effects

All medications have side effects. Not everyone will experience side effects. Below are some of the possible side effects your child may experience.

- Sedation and drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Ataxia
- Excess saliva and drooling
- Slurred speech
- Forgetfulness
- Confusion
- Irritability
- Hyper excitability
- Fatigue
- Depression

Rare Side Effects

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Itchiness

Potential serious adverse effects

- Depression of breathing can occur, especially if used with other medicines that suppress the brain.
- A withdrawal syndrome (e.g. irritability and increased seizures) after long-term (chronic) usage.

Can other medications be given with Clonazepam?

Depression of breathing can occur, especially if used with other medicines that suppress the brain. This is particularly important in children with swallowing and breathing problems.

Your doctor will check and make sure that other drugs your child is taking are compatible with Clonazepam. This is also important if you are giving your child herbal or complementary medicines. The doctor can check to make sure they are compatible.

It is important patients can think clearly on Clonazepam especially if driving.

Epilepsy and Pregnancy

If a pregnancy is planned, a discussion with your neurologist is recommended. Any issues related to child bearing please refer to the PENNSW website: www.PENNSW.com.au.

What else do I need to Know?

- This medication should not be stopped suddenly as seizures may increase.
- Clonazepam is prescribed in either a liquid or tablet form.
- The liquid (oral) preparation requires great care in its usage to avoid overdose:
 - The oral liquid is measured in DROPS only (not in millilitres - do not draw up into a syringe).
 - The drops should not be administered directly into the mouth.
 - Drops should be counted onto a spoon and preferably given directly, or can be mixed with a liquid (e.g. water or juice) if desired.
 - Ensure you discuss with your doctor exactly how many drops should be used for your child.

Monitoring and Levels

Drug monitoring is not performed.