
CLONAZEPAM (Klonopin) Fact Sheet for Patients

Generic Name: Clonazepam (kloh-NAY-zuh-pam)

Brand Name: Klonopin

What Does It Treat?

Clonazepam is primarily used to treat seizures and panic disorder. It helps to reduce the frequency and intensity of seizures and can help manage symptoms of panic attacks.

How Does It Work?

Clonazepam belongs to a class of medications called benzodiazepines. It works by enhancing the activity of a neurotransmitter in the brain called gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), which helps to reduce excessive electrical activity and promote relaxation.

How Do I Take It?

Clonazepam is available in tablet or disintegrating tablet form. It is usually taken orally, with or without food.

What is the Dose?

The dose of clonazepam varies depending on the condition being treated. The typical dosage, used for panic disorder, is 0.5-1 mg taken two or three times a day. Follow your health care provider's instructions on dosing and schedule.

How Long Will I Take It?

The duration of clonazepam treatment can vary. Your health care provider will assess your condition and determine the appropriate length of treatment. For some individuals, it may be used on a long-term basis to manage chronic conditions.

What If I Miss a Dose?

If you forget to take a dose of clonazepam, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your regular dosing schedule. Do not take extra doses to make up for the missed one.

What Are Possible Side Effects?

- Most common: Drowsiness, dizziness, coordination problems, fatigue.
- Serious but rare: Slurred speech, memory problems, increased agitation, worsening of depression, respiratory depression (unusually slow or shallow breathing).

What Else Should I Know?

- Clonazepam may interact with other medications, so inform your health care provider of all the medications you are taking.
- Avoid alcohol and certain medications that can cause drowsiness while taking clonazepam, as they may increase clonazepam's sedative effects.
- Clonazepam should not be stopped abruptly without consulting your health care provider, as it may lead to withdrawal symptoms. Follow their guidance for gradually reducing the dosage.
- Discuss with your health care provider if you have a history of respiratory problems, glaucoma, liver or kidney disease, or are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Remember, this fact sheet provides general information about this medication. For more specific guidance and instructions, consult your health care provider.