

CLONAZEPAM

Other names: Paxam® Rivotril®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why are you taking this medicine?

Clonazepam belongs to a group of medicines called benzodiazepines. The benzodiazepines are similar in what they do, but some like clonazepam can have a multiple of actions like muscle-relaxing, anticonvulsant and reducing anxiety (anxiolytic) effects.

Clonazepam can be used for the following conditions:

- to prevent epilepsy
- to reduce attacks of anxiety
- to prevent muscle spasms
- to treat panic attacks

When to take this medicine

Clonazepam can be taken with or without food.

Your doctor may start you on a low dose and increase it slowly over the first few weeks as your body gets used to it. You will be told how much to take and what times of the day to take your doses, but if you are unsure, ask your pharmacist or doctor.

DO NOT STOP taking clonazepam without your doctor's permission. Stopping suddenly can cause problems (such as difficulty sleeping, feeling restless or anxious, sweating and headaches).

If you miss a dose

If you miss a dose of this medicine take it as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- depressed mood or severe confusion
- unsteadiness
- severe drowsiness and muscle weakness
- shortness of breath
- urinary retention (not being able to pee)
- face and ankle swelling

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- dizziness or drowsiness, light-headedness or a feeling of a 'hangover' the next morning
- headache
- blurred vision
- dry mouth
- skin rash
- gastrointestinal (stomach) upsets such as nausea and/or vomiting, diarrhoea or constipation

This medicine may cause you to feel drowsy or tired the next morning. If this carries on, contact your doctor. If you are drowsy do not drive or operate machinery, or work at dangerous jobs that require you to be fully alert or wide awake.

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

Other Medication

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Some medicines can increase the side effects of clonazepam. For example strong pain killers (e.g. morphine), antidepressants (e.g. paroxetine), sleeping tablets, antihistamines, medicines for epilepsy and alcohol.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.