
Department of Neurosciences

Clonazepam drug information

Clonazepam belongs to a group of drugs known as benzodiazepines. It reduces excitation in the brain thereby lessening the risk of epileptic activity. It is available in 500 microgram tablets (beige) and 2mg tablets (white). It is also available as an injection for prolonged seizures.

Drug brand names

- Clonazepam
- Rivotril

Uses

Clonazepam is used to reduce seizure frequency and severity in people who have epilepsy. It is also used to treat severe anxiety.

Side effects

- Drowsiness is quite common at the start of treatment but often settles. It is occasionally severe.
- Dizziness and unsteadiness occur occasionally.
- Behavioural changes are uncommon but if they occur, they may include aggressiveness, irritability, hyperactivity and restlessness.

These side effects may reduce on lowering the dose and stop on withdrawing medication. If you experience any of these side effects, please contact the epilepsy nurse (contact details are at the end of the leaflet) or your GP.

Contraception

Clonazepam is not reported to affect the oral contraceptive pill.

Pregnancy

Clonazepam is not known to cause serious problems for the baby but you should discuss treatment with your doctor before you conceive. We recommend you take folic acid 5mg daily from at least eight weeks prior to conception until at least 13 weeks of pregnancy. Clonazepam may make the baby sleepy after delivery, which slightly increases the chance of the baby needing help with breathing for a few hours.

Drug interactions

Inform the doctor about other medication you may be taking including anti epileptic drugs.

Other useful information

- Take Clonazepam two hours before or two hours after food.
- Try to take the medicine at the same time every day.
- Keep a record of your seizures when you start any new medication. This will help determine future drug dosages.
- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at once.
- Inform your doctor if your seizures happen more frequently.
- Do not stop taking Clonazepam suddenly. This may cause difficulty with sleep and withdrawal seizures.
- Only stop taking Clonazepam under supervision.
- Store Clonazepam below 30 degrees and in the packaging that it comes in.

If you experience any of these side effects, please contact the epilepsy nurse (contact details are at the end of the leaflet) or your GP.

Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Epilepsy Nurse Specialist on 01223 217992.

The information on this leaflet is not exhaustive. Please refer to the patient information leaflet prepared by the manufacturer of your drug which can be found in the medicine packaging.



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Arabic

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال بمعلومات المريض على الرقم: 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese

如您需以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasinlar: 01223 216032 veya patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کرنے کی درخواست کریں: 01223 216032 یا patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পেতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

Document history

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