



[Home](#)

2. Librium

Librium

Generic name: [chlordiazepoxide](#) [*KLOR-dye-AZ-e-POX-ide*]

Drug class: [Benzodiazepines](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 2, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)



The Librium brand name has been **discontinued** in the U.S. If generic versions of this product have been approved by the FDA, there may be [generic equivalents available](#).

What is Librium?

Librium is a benzodiazepine (ben-zoe-dye-AZE-eh-peen) that is used to treat [anxiety](#) disorders.

Librium may also be used short-term to treat symptoms of [alcohol withdrawal](#), or anxiety you may have before a [surgery](#).

Librium may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Librium side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Librium can slow or stop your breathing, especially if you have recently used an opioid medication or alcohol. A person caring for you should seek emergency medical attention if you have slow breathing with long pauses, blue colored lips, or if you are hard to wake up.

Librium may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe [drowsiness](#), slurred speech;
- [slow heart rate](#), slow breathing (breathing may stop);
- problems with memory or concentration;
- unusual changes in mood or behavior, thoughts of suicide or hurting yourself;
- problems with balance or muscle movement;
- confusion, excitement, paranoia, anger, aggression; or

- stomach pain, loss of appetite.

Drowsiness or dizziness may last longer in older adults. Use caution to avoid falling or accidental injury.

Common side effects of Librium may include:

- drowsiness;
- confusion; or
- balance problems.

After you stop using Librium, get medical help right away if you have symptoms such as: unusual muscle movements, being more active or talkative, sudden and severe changes in mood or behavior, confusion, hallucinations, [seizures](#), suicidal thoughts or actions.

Some withdrawal symptoms may last up to 12 months or longer after stopping Librium suddenly. Tell your doctor if you have ongoing anxiety, [depression](#), problems with memory or thinking, trouble sleeping, ringing in your ears, a burning or prickly feeling, or a crawling sensation under your skin.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Librium side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Cymbalta

Cymbalta (duloxetine) is used to treat major depressive disorder, general anxiety disorder and ...

Reviews & ratings

6.3 / 10

[1,899 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Promethazine

Promethazine is a phenothiazine and antihistamine used to treat allergies, motion sickness, nausea ...

Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

[388 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide) for type 2 diabetes treatment, weight management, cardiovascular ...

Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Xanax

Xanax (alprazolam) is a benzodiazepine medication used to treat anxiety and panic disorders ...

Reviews & ratings

8.6 / 10

[915 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Venlafaxine

Venlafaxine is used to treat major depressive disorder, anxiety, and panic disorder. Learn about ...

Reviews & ratings

6.5 / 10

[2,786 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Diazepam

Diazepam is used to treat anxiety disorders, alcohol withdrawal symptoms, or muscle spasms. Learn ...

Reviews & ratings

8.4 / 10

[884 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Lorazepam

Lorazepam is in a group of drugs

called benzodiazepines and is used to treat anxiety disorders ...

Reviews & ratings

7.9 / 10

[1,054 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Lexapro

Lexapro is used to treat anxiety and major depressive disorder. Learn about side effects ...

Reviews & ratings

7.6 / 10

[2,376 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Alprazolam

Alprazolam is used to treat anxiety disorders, panic disorders, and anxiety. Learn about side ...

Reviews & ratings

8.6 / 10

[1,486 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Buspirone

Buspirone is used to treat symptoms of anxiety, such as fear, tension, irritability and dizziness ...

Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[1,357 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

Librium can slow or stop your breathing, especially if you have recently used an opioid medication or alcohol.

MISUSE OF THIS MEDICINE CAN CAUSE ADDICTION, OVERDOSE, OR DEATH. Keep this medicine where others cannot get to it.

Do not stop using Librium without asking your doctor. **You may have life-threatening withdrawal symptoms if you stop using the medicine suddenly after long-term use.** Some withdrawal symptoms may last up to 12 months or longer.

Get medical help right away if you stop using Librium and have symptoms such as: unusual muscle movements, being more active or talkative, sudden and severe changes in mood or behavior, confusion, hallucinations, seizures, or thoughts about suicide.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Librium if you are allergic to it.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- depression, a [mood disorder](#), suicidal thoughts or actions;
- [alcoholism](#) or [drug addiction](#); or
- liver or kidney disease.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Librium may harm an unborn baby. **Avoid taking Librium during the first trimester of pregnancy.**

Ask a doctor if it is safe to breastfeed while using this medicine.

Not approved for use by anyone younger than 6 years old.

How should I take Librium?

Follow the directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. **Never use Librium in larger amounts, or for longer than prescribed.** Tell your doctor if you feel an increased urge to use more of this medicine.

Never share this medicine with another person, especially someone with a history of drug addiction. MISUSE CAN CAUSE ADDICTION, OVERDOSE, OR DEATH. Keep the medicine where others cannot get to it. Selling or giving away this medicine is against the law.

Librium is usually taken for no longer than 4 months. **Follow your doctor's dosing instructions very carefully.**

Do not stop using Librium without asking your doctor. **You may have life-threatening withdrawal symptoms if you stop using the medicine suddenly after long-term use.**

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Keep your medicine in a place where no one can use it improperly.

 [Detailed Librium dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose of Librium can be fatal if you take it with alcohol, opioid medicine, or other drugs that cause drowsiness or slow your breathing.**

Overdose symptoms may include [dry mouth](#), blurred vision, urinating less, [constipation](#), extreme drowsiness, confusion, muscle weakness, or loss of consciousness.

What should I avoid while taking chlordiazepoxide?

Avoid drinking alcohol. Dangerous side effects or death could occur.

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how Librium will affect you. Dizziness or drowsiness can cause falls, accidents, or severe injuries.

What other drugs will affect Librium?

Using Librium with other drugs that make you sleepy or slow your breathing can cause dangerous side effects or death. Ask your doctor before using opioid medication, a sleeping pill, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety or seizures.

Other drugs may affect Librium, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use.

 [Librium drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Librium interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Librium

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about Librium (chlordiazepoxide)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Reviews \(174\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Latest FDA alerts \(1\)](#)

- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: benzodiazepines](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

Patient resources

- [Librium advanced reading](#)

Professional resources

- [Librium prescribing information](#)
- [Chlordiazepoxide \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Alcohol Withdrawal](#)
- [Anxiety](#)
- [Light Sedation](#)

Further information


Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.


Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 11.01.

DRUG STATUS

Availability
 Discontinued

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
4 Some potential for abuse

Approval History
10+ years FDA approved 1960



User Reviews & Ratings

8.7 / 10

[174 Reviews](#)

Images

Librium 10 mg (LIBRIUM 10 ROCHE)



[View larger images](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)
[Advertising policy](#)
[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)
[Editorial policy](#)
[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)
[Sitemap](#)
[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices

ADVERTISEMENT



