

[Home](#)2. [Klonopin](#)

# Klonopin

**Generic name:** [clonazepam](#) [ *kloe-NAZ-e-pam* ]**Drug classes:** [Benzodiazepine anticonvulsants](#), [Benzodiazepines](#)Medically reviewed by [Sophia Entringer, PharmD](#). Last updated on Dec 3, 2024.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

## What is Klonopin?

Klonopin is a benzodiazepine (ben-zoe-dye-AZE-eh-peen). It is thought that benzodiazepines work by enhancing the activity of certain neurotransmitters in the brain.

Klonopin is used to treat certain seizure disorders (including absence [seizures](#) or [Lennox-Gastaut syndrome](#)) in adults and children.

Klonopin is also used to treat [panic disorder](#) (including [agoraphobia](#)) in adults.

## Warnings

**Klonopin can slow or stop your breathing, especially if you have recently used an opioid medication, alcohol, or other drugs that can slow your breathing.**

MISUSE OF CLONAZEPAM CAN CAUSE ADDICTION, OVERDOSE, OR DEATH. Keep the medication in a place where others cannot get to it. **Never share Klonopin with another person.** Selling or giving away this medicine is against the law.

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking Klonopin. Tell your doctor right away if you have any sudden changes in mood or behavior, or thoughts about suicide.

**Get medical help right away if you stop using Klonopin 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.

Do not stop using Klonopin 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.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not take Klonopin if you have:

- narrow-angle [glaucoma](#);
- severe liver disease; or
- a history of allergic reaction to any benzodiazepine (clonazepam, [alprazolam](#), [diazepam](#), [lorazepam](#), [Valium](#), [Xanax](#), [Versed](#), and others).

To make sure Klonopin is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- kidney or liver disease;
- breathing problems;
- [depression](#), mood problems, or suicidal thoughts or behavior; or
- [porphyria](#) (a genetic enzyme disorder that causes symptoms affecting the skin or nervous system).

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking Klonopin. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Your family or caregivers should also watch for sudden changes in your behavior.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. **If you use Klonopin during pregnancy, your baby could be born with life-threatening withdrawal symptoms, and may need medical treatment for several weeks.**

**Do not start or stop seizure medication during pregnancy without your doctor's advice.** Clonazepam may harm an unborn baby, but having a seizure during pregnancy could harm both mother and baby. Preventing seizures may outweigh these risks. **Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.**

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

Do not give this medicine to a child without medical advice. **Klonopin is not approved to treat panic disorder in anyone younger than 18 years old.**

 [Klonopin pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I take Klonopin?

Take Klonopin exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow the directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Never use Klonopin 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 abuse or addiction. MISUSE CAN CAUSE ADDICTION, OVERDOSE, OR DEATH.** Keep the medication in a place where others cannot get to it. Selling or giving away this medicine is against the law.

Swallow the tablet whole, with a full glass of water.

Clonazepam doses are based on weight in children and teenagers. Your child's dose may change if the child gains or loses weight.

Your doctor will need to check your progress on a regular basis.

Call your doctor if this medicine seems to stop working as well in treating your seizures or [panic attacks](#).

Do not stop using Klonopin without asking your doctor. You may have life-threatening withdrawal symptoms if you stop

using the medicine suddenly after long-term use.

Seizures are often treated with a combination of drugs. Use all medications as directed by your doctor. Read the medication guide or patient instructions provided with each medication. Do not change your doses or medication schedule without your doctor's advice.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light. Keep track of your medicine. You should be aware if anyone is using it improperly or without a prescription.

 [Detailed Klonopin 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 clonazepam 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 extreme drowsiness, confusion, muscle weakness, or coma.

## What should I avoid while taking Klonopin?

**Do not drink alcohol.** Dangerous side effects or death could occur.

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you. [Dizziness](#) or drowsiness can cause falls, accidents, or severe injuries.

## Klonopin side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Klonopin** [hives](#); difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Clonazepam 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.

Tell your doctor right away if you have new or sudden changes in mood or behavior, including new or worse depression or [anxiety](#), panic attacks, trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, hostile, aggressive, restless, more active or talkative, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- new or worsening seizures;
- severe drowsiness;
- weak or shallow breathing;

- unusual changes in mood or behavior;
- confusion, paranoia, nightmares, hallucinations;
- thoughts of suicide or hurting yourself;
- unusual or involuntary eye movements.

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

Common Klonopin side effects may include:

- drowsiness, dizziness;
- feeling tired or depressed;
- memory problems; or
- problems with walking or coordination.

**After you stop using Klonopin**, 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 this medicine 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.

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

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## What other drugs will affect Klonopin?

Using Klonopin 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 interact with clonazepam, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use.

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

## Does Klonopin interact with my other drugs?

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

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Klonopin Wafer](#)

## Professional resources

- [Klonopin prescribing information](#)
- [Clonazepam \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Panic Disorder](#)
- [Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome](#)
- [Seizure Prevention](#)
- [Epilepsy](#)

## Further information

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

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

DRUG STATUS

<b>Availability</b>		
Rx	Prescription only	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Lactation</b>		
	Risk data available	
<b>CSA Schedule*</b>		
4	Some potential for abuse	▼
<b>Approval History</b>		
10+ years	FDA approved 1975	▼

User Reviews & Ratings

8.5 / 10

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