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## 2. Clonazepam

# Clonazepam

**Generic name:** clonazepam [ *kloe-NAZ-e-pam* ]

**Brand names:** [KlonoPIN](#), [KlonoPIN Wafer](#)

**Dosage forms:** oral tablet (0.5 mg; 1 mg; 2 mg), oral tablet, disintegrating (0.125 mg; 0.25 mg; 0.5 mg; 1 mg; 2 mg)

**Drug classes:** [Benzodiazepine anticonvulsants](#), [Benzodiazepines](#)

Medically reviewed by [Kaci Durbin, MD](#). Last updated on Dec 3, 2024.

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## What is clonazepam?

[Clonazepam](#) 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.

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

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

## Warnings

**Clonazepam 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 clonazepam with another person.** Selling or giving away this medicine is against the law.

Some people have thoughts about suicide while taking clonazepam. 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 clonazepam 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 clonazepam 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 clonazepam if you are allergic to it or if you have:

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

To make sure this medicine 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 clonazepam. 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 clonazepam 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. **Clonazepam is not approved to treat panic disorder in anyone younger than 18 years old.**

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

## How should I take clonazepam?

Take clonazepam exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow the directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Never use this medicine 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.

Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand these instructions.

You will need frequent medical tests.

**Do not stop using clonazepam suddenly**, even if you feel fine. Stopping suddenly may cause increased seizures or unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

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

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

Remove an orally disintegrating tablet from the package only when you are ready to take the medicine. Place the tablet in your mouth and allow it to dissolve, without chewing. Swallow several times as the tablet dissolves.

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](#).

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 Clonazepam 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 clonazepam?

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

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

## Clonazepam side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to clonazepam**: [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 clonazepam side effects may include:

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

**After you stop using clonazepam**, 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.

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

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## What other drugs will affect clonazepam?

Using clonazepam 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.

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

## Does clonazepam interact with my other drugs?

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

clonazepam

+

Enter a drug name

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Klonopin](#), [Klonopin Wafer](#)

## Professional resources

- [Clonazepam monograph](#)
- [Clonazepam \(FDA\)](#)
- [Clonazepam Tablet Orally Disintegrating \(FDA\)](#)

### Other brands

[Klonopin](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Benzodiazepine Withdrawal](#)
- [Anxiety](#)
- [Bipolar Disorder](#)
- [Borderline Personality Disorder](#)

# Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use clonazepam 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](#)

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## DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule\*

4 Some potential for abuse

Approval History

 Drug history at FDA

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## User Reviews & Ratings

8.2 / 10

[2,176 Reviews](#)

## Images

[Clonazepam 1 mg \(1\)](#)



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