



[Home](#)

2. [Diazepam](#)

Diazepam

Generic name: diazepam (oral) [*dye-AZ-e-pam*]

Brand name: [Valium](#)

Dosage forms: oral concentrate (5 mg/mL), oral solution (5 mg/5 mL), oral tablet (10 mg; 2 mg; 5 mg)

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

Medically reviewed by [Melisa Puckey, BPharm](#). Last updated on Feb 29, 2024.

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

What is diazepam?

[Diazepam](#) 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.

Diazepam is used to treat [anxiety](#) disorders, or [alcohol withdrawal](#) symptoms.

Diazepam is sometimes used with other medications to treat muscle spasms and stiffness, or [seizures](#).

Warnings

Diazepam 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 DIAZEPAM CAN CAUSE ADDICTION, OVERDOSE, OR DEATH, especially in a child or other person using the medicine without a prescription. Keep the medication in a place where others cannot get to it.

Fatal side effects can occur if you use this medicine with opioid medicine, alcohol, or other drugs that cause drowsiness or slow your breathing.

You should not use this medicine if you are allergic to diazepam or similar medicines (Klonopin>, Xanax, and others), or if you have [myasthenia gravis](#), severe [liver disease](#), narrow-angle [glaucoma](#), a severe breathing problem, or [sleep apnea](#).

Do not stop using this medicine 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 diazepam 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 diazepam if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- [myasthenia gravis](#) (a muscle weakness disorder);
- a severe breathing problem;
- [sleep apnea](#) (breathing stops during sleep);
- narrow-angle [glaucoma](#);
- untreated or uncontrolled open-angle glaucoma; or
- severe liver disease.

Diazepam should not be given to a child younger than 6 months old. **Do not give this medicine to a child without a doctor's advice.**

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

- breathing problems;
- glaucoma;
- kidney or liver disease;
- seizures (unless you are taking diazepam to treat a seizure disorder);
- a drug or alcohol addiction; or
- [depression](#), a [mood disorder](#), or suicidal thoughts or behavior.

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

May harm an unborn baby. Do not use if you are pregnant or may become pregnant. If you use diazepam 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. Diazepam 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.**

There may be other seizure medications that are safer to use during pregnancy.

You should not breastfeed.

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

How should I take diazepam?

Take diazepam exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow the directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Never use diazepam 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.

Measure liquid medicine with the supplied measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Diazepam should be used for only a short time. Do not take this medicine for longer than 4 months without your doctor's advice.

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

You will need frequent medical tests.

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

 [Detailed Diazepam 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 diazepam 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, [loss of balance](#) or coordination, limp or weak muscles, slow breathing, or coma.

What should I avoid while taking diazepam?

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

Grapefruit may interact with diazepam and lead to unwanted side effects. Avoid the use of grapefruit products.

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

Diazepam side effects

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

Diazepam 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:

- severe drowsiness or dizziness;
- trouble breathing;
- confusion, paranoia; or
- new or worsening seizures.

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

Common diazepam side effects may include:

- drowsiness;
- feeling tired;
- muscle weakness; or
- problems with balance or muscle movement.

After you stop using diazepam, 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.

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

Related/similar drugs

Clonazepam

Clonazepam is used to treat seizures and panic disorder. Learn about side effects, interactions and ...

Reviews & ratings

8.2 / 10

[2,176 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Ozempic

Learn about Ozempic (semaglutide)

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

Reviews & ratings

6.6 / 10

[1,504 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](#)

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](#)

Escitalopram

Escitalopram is an SSRI antidepressant used to treat major depressive disorder in adults and teens ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[3,962 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Lexapro

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

about side effects ...

Reviews & ratings

7.6 / 10

[2,376 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Duloxetine

Duloxetine is a selective serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor antidepressant used to ...

Reviews & ratings

6.2 / 10

[2,456 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Hydroxyzine

Hydroxyzine is an antihistamine used to treat itching, hives, and anxiety. It also acts as a ...

Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[1,404 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Cyclobenzaprine

Cyclobenzaprine is a muscle relaxant and works by blocking pain sensations. Includes ...

Reviews & ratings

6.0 / 10

[618 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

What other drugs will affect diazepam?

Taking diazepam 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 diazepam, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use.

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

Does diazepam interact with my other drugs?

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

diazepam

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about diazepam

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(884\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Latest FDA alerts \(2\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: benzodiazepine anticonvulsants](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

Patient resources

Other brands

[Valium](#), [Valtoco](#), [Diastat](#), [Diastat AcuDial](#), ... [+3 more](#)

Professional resources

- [Diazepam monograph](#)
- [Diazepam \(FDA\)](#)
- [Diazepam Autoinjector \(FDA\)](#)

- [Diazepam Injection \(FDA\)](#)
- [Diazepam Oral Solution Concentrate \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Valium](#), [Valtoco](#), [Diastat](#), [Libervant](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Back Pain](#)
- [Anxiety](#)
- [Hyperekplexia](#)
- [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 this medicine 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: 15.01.

DRUG STATUS	
Availability	
Rx	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
4	Some potential for abuse
Approval History	
	Drug history at FDA

User Reviews & Ratings

8.4 / 10

[884 Reviews](#)

Related News

[Neurelis Announces FDA Approval for Immediate Use Seizure Medication Valtoco \(diazepam nasal spray\) in Ages 2 to 5 Years](#)

Images

Diazepam 5 mg (TEVA 3926)



[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



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.