

Clobazam (also called Frisium)

is an antiepileptic drug that may help to control different types of epileptic seizure or fit, including generalised tonic-clonic, atonic and myoclonic (jerk) seizures. It may sometimes be used to control absence and focal seizures. The medicine is available as a tablet containing 10mg per tablet. A suspension can be made by hospital or ordered via a community pharmacist. Be careful not to confuse Clobazam with Clonazepam (a different antiepileptic drug) as the doses are very different.

How do I use it?

- Clobazam is usually taken regularly: once, twice or occasionally in some cases 3 times a day.
- Clobazam sometimes is used just on bad days e.g. to break up clusters of seizures. Ask your doctor about this.
- The tablets should be swallowed whole.
- If a dose is forgotten and you remember up to 4 hours after missing the dose, give the forgotten dose as soon as you can.
- If you remember only at or near the time the next dose is due, just give your child the usual dose. **Do not** give any extra Clobazam.
- If your child vomits within 15 minutes of taking a dose of the medicine, then give the dose again; if your child vomits after 15 minutes after taking the dose, then **do not** give it again.

The medicine is at the correct dosage when your child has stopped having seizures (fits) and has no side effects. It is not necessary to measure the level of medicine in the blood with a blood test.

Follow the dose plan worked out by your doctor.

If your child has been taking Clobazam regularly, **do not stop it suddenly** as this could bring on a prolonged seizure.

Keep a seizure diary if you can and remember to always bring all the medicines with you to clinic appointments

Use with other medicines?

Most other medicines (tablets or liquid medicines), including most antibiotics and Paracetamol (Calpol) can be taken safely with Clobazam. Alcohol should not be taken with Clobazam.

Clobazam does not reduce the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill. Always let your Doctor or pharmacist know if starting a new medicine.

What are the common side-effects?

There are very few side effects associated with Clobazam and these usually occur as the medicine is started.

1. Drowsiness, dizziness, memory loss fatigue and difficulties with co-ordination or balance may occur but usually settle down after a week or so.
2. Excess salivation or drooling may also occur, particularly in young children, but this rarely causes a problem.
3. Some children may show aggression irritability and confusion but this usually stops after the first week of treatment. If this difficult and aggressive behaviour does not go away, you should tell your doctor (GP or hospital) or specialist nurse.
4. Very rarely children may develop a fine tremor of the fingers, but again this usually happens at the beginning of treatment and disappears after a couple of weeks.
5. Your child may develop a dry mouth constipation, loss of appetite, nausea, rash and headaches.

For further information please refer to the manufacturer's patient information leaflet.