

Parent/Carer's Information Leaflet

Nitrazepam

(also called Mogadon)

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Nitrazepam (also called Mogadon)

Nitrazepam is a medicine used in epilepsy to control certain types of fits or convulsions, particularly sudden jerks (myoclonic seizures), infantile spasms or generalized tonic-clonic seizures (fits).

The medicine is available either as a tablet (5mg) or as a cherry-flavoured liquid (each 5ml spoonful containing 2.5mg). Several different brands are available.

How do I use it?

- Nitrazepam (either liquid or tablet) is taken twice a day.
- If your child takes the liquid form you should use either a measuring teaspoon or oral syringe to make sure that your child gets the right amount.
- The tablets may be crushed and taken in soft food or juice.
- If a dose is forgotten, and you remember up to four hours after missing the dose, give the forgotten dose when 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 Nitrazepam.
- If your child vomits within 15 minutes of taking a dose then give the dose again; if your child vomits after 15 minutes after taking the dose, **do not** give it again.

Nitrazepam is at the correct dosage when your child has stopped having seizures (fits) and has no side effects. Follow the dose plan worked out by your doctor.

If your child has been taking the medicine regularly, **do not stop it suddenly** as this could bring on a fit or convulsion.

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 liquids) including antibiotics and Paracetamol (Calpol) can be taken safely with Nitrazepam.

Nitrazepam does not reduce the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill.

What are the common side effects?

There are very few side effects associated with Nitrazepam and these tend to occur only as the medicine is started or at a high dose.

1. Drowsiness, fatigue and difficulties with co-ordination or balance may occur, but usually settle down after the first few days or week of treatment.
2. Some children may show aggression or irritability but this tends to settle down. If it does not go away you should contact your doctor (GP or hospital).
3. Very rarely, headache, nausea and vomiting (sickness) or a skin rash may occur; if any of these do occur you should contact your doctor (GP or hospital).

There is **little risk** of your child becoming dependent on, or addicted to Nitrazepam as the dosage used to control seizures (fits) is so small.

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