

Parent/Carer's Information Leaflet

Clonazepam

(also called Rivotril)

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Clonazepam (Also called Rivotril)

Clonazepam is a medicine used in epilepsy to control certain types of seizures or convulsions (fits), particularly myoclonic seizures (jerks), atonic seizures, or tonic-clonic seizures.

The medicine is available only in tablet form (either 0.5mg or 2.0mg per tablet). Suspensions can be made by hospitals or ordered by community pharmacists

How do I use it?

- Clonazepam is given either once or twice a day.
- The tablets can be swallowed whole but may be crushed and taken in some food or juice.
- 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 Clonazepam.
- If your child vomits within 15 mins of taking a dose of medicine give the dose again: if your child vomits after 15 mins after taking the dose, **do not** give it again.

The dosage will be increased gradually. Clonazepam is at the correct dosage when your child has stopped having seizures (fits) and has no side effects.

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 liquid) including most antibiotics and Paracetamol

(Calpol) can safely be taken with Clonazepam. Alcohol should not be taken with Clonazepam. Rarely it interacts with other antiepileptic drugs e.g. valproate and phenytoin. Clonazepam does not reduce the effectiveness of the oral contraceptive pill.

What are the common side-effects?

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

1. Drowsiness, fatigue and difficulties with co-ordination or balance are fairly common but tend to settle down after a week or so. They can also occur over a longer period of time.
2. Excess salivation or drooling may also occur, particularly in young children, but this rarely causes a problem.
3. Some children may show aggression and irritability and nightmares but this tends to settle down. If it does not go away you should contact your doctor (GP or hospital doctor)

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