

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Doctor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pharmacy: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## What is Clonazepam?

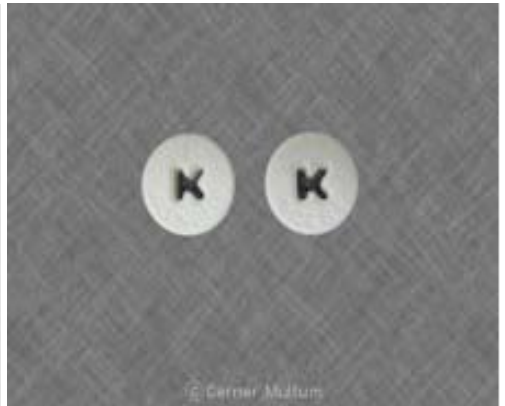
- Clonazepam is a medicine approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat all types of seizures, including absence, myoclonic, atonic (drop attacks), partial seizures and seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.
- It is most often used together with another antiepileptic drug. It may also be used for other conditions as well as seizures, such as anxiety.
- The drug is quickly absorbed after taking it by mouth and it reaches its highest amount in the body in 1-2 hours.

### Important questions to ask your doctor:

- Why am I being given this medicine? \_\_\_\_\_
- What amount should I be taking? \_\_\_\_\_

## What does the drug look like and how should I take it?

There are several brands and generic forms of the medicine. The brand name Klonopin is shown below at the 0.5 mg pill, the 1 mg pill and the 2 mg pill as well as the klonopin wafer.



## Frequently Asked Questions:

**How do I take Klonopin?** To use the tablet form: chew tablets and swallow or swallow the tablet whole. This can be taken with or without food. Drink a small glass of water or liquid to wash down any leftover medicine.  
To use the wafer form: Dry your hands before opening a wafer packet. Then place the wafer on the tongue and it will instantly dissolve.

It's important that this medicine is taken regularly or it won't work correctly. Don't skip doses even if you feel that you don't need the drug.

Sometimes when a person takes this medicine long-term or in large amounts, their body may get used to this drug making the drug less effective or helpful.

In most patients, Klonopin is usually prescribed for a period of 4-6 months, though at times your doctor may decide to keep you on the medication for a longer period of time. You should never stop taking this medication without talking to your doctor. Stopping the drug suddenly can worsen your condition and cause withdrawal symptoms including irritability, sleeplessness, nervousness, and seizures. Your doctor will need to decrease your dose gradually.

**What should I do if I miss a dose?** Take the missed dose as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take an extra dose unless prescribed by your doctor.

**What are the side effects of this medication?** Common side effects include poor coordination, behavior changes, unsteadiness, sleepiness, fatigue, drowsiness, blurred or double-vision, and dizziness.

**What if I experience side effects?** Various side effects may occur in taking this medication. Most side effects are not serious and may disappear naturally. Call your doctor if you have any questions concerning your possible side effects. However, do not stop taking your medication without advice from your doctor.

Contact your physician immediately if you experience any of the following side effects:

- Allergic reactions (rashes, hives, difficulty breathing, swallowing)
- Aggressive behavior
- Suicidal thoughts
- Chest congestion
- Hallucinations
- Memory loss
- Shortness of breath
- Tremors

**How do I store this medication?** Keep this medicine in its original container tightly closed and out of reach of children. Store your prescription at room temperature, away from excess heat and moisture (i.e. not the bathroom). Protect the wafers from light. Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed.

## Just for Women:

Women who are taking this medication who wish to become pregnant should discuss treatment options with their physician before becoming pregnant. Klonopin passes into breast milk and it is not known whether the medication will affect the nursing infant. Do not take Klonopin without first talking to your doctor if you are breast feeding a baby.

**Does this medication affect birth control pills?** This medication is not known to have any drug interactions with birth control pills.

**Will the medicine affect my menstrual cycle?** This medicine should not affect the menstrual cycle. If your cycle becomes irregular, call your doctor.

## More Questions?

For more detailed information about Clonazepam and Klonopin and seizures, please visit [www.epilepsy.com](http://www.epilepsy.com) and click on Treatment >> Seizure Medicines ([www.epilepsy.com/epilepsy/seizure\\_medicines.html](http://www.epilepsy.com/epilepsy/seizure_medicines.html))