Clobazam
(Clo-ba-zam)

What is Clobazam?

Clobazam is the generic name (non-brand name) of the brand-name drug commonly known as Onfi in the United States and Frisium elsewhere. Clobazam is a seizure medicine and is available in many countries. In Canada, clobazam is also sold under the brand name Novo-Clobazam.

Important questions to ask your doctor:

• Why am I being given this medicine? _________________________________________________________________
• What amount should I be taking? __________________________________________________________________

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is this medicine used for? This medicine is used to prevent or control seizures and is currently being tested in the United States for treatment of seizures related to Lennox Gastaut syndrome.

How does it work? Clobazam acts similar to some other medicines known as benzodiazepines. They work to calm the brain activity to prevent further seizures.

How is it best taken? Take this medicine with or without food. Drink a full glass of water after swallowing the pill. Taking the medicine with food can help prevent any stomach upset.

Are there any precautions that I should worry about when taking this medicine? This medicine, like many medicines taken long term, can be habit forming. If you have been taking this medicine on a regular basis for at least 10 days, talk with your healthcare provider before stopping the drug or changing the amount you take. When coming off this medicine, talk to your doctor about how to slowly lower the medicine. People who are 65 years or older, should use this medicine carefully because they could have more side effects.

What should I do if I miss a dose? If you miss or forget a dose, take it as soon as possible. However if you have missed a dose and it is within a few hours of your next dose, then take only the next scheduled dose. Do not double-up or take extra medicine unless instructed to do so by your doctor.

How can I remember to take my medication?

• Take the medicine at the same time each day.
• Take it at the same time as some other routine such as brushing your teeth, after meals or at bedtime.
• Use a pillbox so you can check it if you have taken a dose.
• Use an alarm to remind you of times to take a dose.
• Keep a written schedule or chart of when to take the medicine.
• Talk to your doctor or healthcare provider about problems remembering the medicine.

How long will it take the medicine to work? It may take a number of weeks or months to find the right dose and even more time may be needed to know how well the medicine works to control your seizures. How long this takes will be different for each person. It may depend on how often you have seizures, what other medicine you may be taking and how your body responds to the drug.

Are there some foods that need to be avoided? Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice as these products can interfere with the way the medicine works.
Can I take this with alcohol? Avoid alcohol or other liquors, “recreational drugs” and other medicines and natural products that could slow your actions and reactions. These could also include such items as antihistamines or allergy medicines, tranquilizers and other pain medications.

What are some possible side effects of this medicine? Common side effects associated with this medicine include feeling lightheaded, sleepy, having blurred vision, dry mouth, a change in thinking, upset stomach. Serious side effects may include rash or difficulty breathing. Please contact your doctor should those symptoms occur.

Can I drive with this medication? Avoid driving, doing other tasks or activities that require you to be alert or have clear vision such as operating heavy machinery until you see how this medicine affects you. Also, if you are still having seizures, follow driving regulations in your state or country about when you may be able to drive.

When should I call my doctor? Call doctor for unexpected changes in your seizures or behavior or if you are having more problem with balance, thinking less clearly, feeling weak or tired.

Call for emergency help if you are having signs of life-threatening problems such as wheezing, chest tightness, fever, itching, bad cough, bluish color to the skin, or swelling of the face.

How should I store this medicine? Store this medication at room temperature, away from heat, moisture and direct light. Keep all medicine out of reach of children. Do not store this medicine in the bathroom, glove box of a car, or where children can easily find them such as purses, low cabinets or counter tops.

Will this medication affect other medicines that I am taking? Make sure that you tell all your healthcare providers the names of all medicines, herbal or dietary supplements, vitamins and over-the-counter medicines you are taking. Some of these medicines could interfere with Clobazam and lower or raise the amount in your system.

Just for Women:

Is this medicine safe to take during pregnancy? The effect of Clobazam during pregnancy is unknown at this time. If you find or suspect that you may be pregnant, continue taking the medicine and contact your doctor right away. Talk to your doctor about the potential benefits and risks before making any decisions about the use of this medicine. Seizures can be harmful to the mother and developing baby, but these can be lessened with proper care.

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

Can I breast feed while taking this medicine? In general, women taking Clobazam may breast feed, however the drug does pass through the breast milk in small amounts. Talk to your doctor about all options.

Will this affect my bones? Some seizure medicines may cause thinning of the bones. While Clobazam is not known to cause bone problems, all people taking seizure medicines should take calcium and vitamin D supplements each day. Regular exercise and a healthy diet are also very important. People who have thinning of the bones may also need prescription medicines to treat this. Talk to your doctor about how to check the health of your bones and what to do next.

More Questions?

For more detailed information about Clobazam and Frisium and seizures, please visit www.epilepsy.com