

CLONAZEPAM:

Class: Benzodiazepine

Indications: treatment of seizures; panic disorder, bipolar disorder; adjunct therapy for schizophrenia; burning mouth syndrome; essential tremor

Available dosage form in the hospital: TAB (0.5MG, 2 MG), 2.5MG/ML DROPS

Trade Names:

Dosage:

-Panic disorder: Oral: 0.25 mg twice daily; increase in increments of 0.125-0.25 mg twice daily every 3 days; target dose: 1 mg daily (maximum: 4 mg daily)

-Seizure disorders: Oral:

-Initial daily dose not to exceed 1.5 mg given in 3 divided doses; may increase by 0.5-1 mg every third day until seizures are controlled or adverse effects seen (maximum: 20 mg daily)

-Usual maintenance dose: 2-8 mg daily in 1-2 divided doses (Brodie, 1997); do not exceed 20 mg daily

-*Discontinuation of treatment:* To discontinue, treatment should be withdrawn gradually. Decrease dose by 0.125 mg twice daily every 3 days until medication is completely withdrawn.

-Burning mouth syndrome (unlabeled use):

-Oral: Initial: 0.25 at bedtime for 1 week; increase dose by ≤ 0.25 mg every week; maximum dose: 3 mg daily in 3 divided doses. **Note:** Use should be limited (Buchanan, 2008; Grushka, 1998).

-Topical: May administer topically with 1 mg 3 times daily (after each meal). **Note:** Patient should be instructed to suck on the tablet, retain saliva in mouth near the pain sites without swallowing for 3 minutes, and then expectorate saliva (Gremeau-Richard, 2004).

-Essential tremor (unlabeled use): Oral: Initial: 0.5 mg at bedtime; increase dose by 0.5 mg every 3-4 days; maximum dose: 6 mg daily (Biary, 1987; Thompson, 1984; Zesiewicz, 2005; Zesiewicz, 2011).

-REM sleep behavior disorder (unlabeled use): 0.25-2 mg 30 minutes prior to bedtime (maximum: 4 mg 30 minutes prior to bedtime). **Note:** Use with caution in patients with dementia, gait disorders, or obstructive sleep apnea (Aurora, 2010).

Geriatric

Refer to adult dosing. Initiate with low doses and observe closely.

Renal Impairment:

No dosage adjustment provided in manufacturer's labeling; use with caution. Clonazepam metabolites may accumulate in patients with renal impairment.

Hepatic Impairment:

No dosage adjustment provided in manufacturer's labeling; use with caution.

Common side effect:

Cardiovascular: Edema (ankle or facial), palpitation

Central nervous system: Amnesia, ataxia (seizure disorder ~30%; panic disorder 5%), behavior problems (seizure disorder ~25%), coma, confusion, coordination impaired, depression, dizziness, drowsiness (seizure disorder ~50%), emotional lability, fatigue, fever, hallucinations, headache, hysteria, insomnia, intellectual ability reduced, memory disturbance, nervousness; paradoxical reactions (including aggressive behavior, agitation, anxiety, excitability, hostility, irritability, nervousness, nightmares, sleep disturbance, vivid dreams); psychosis, slurred speech, somnolence (panic disorder 37%), vertigo

Dermatologic: Hair loss, hirsutism, skin rash

Endocrine & metabolic: Dysmenorrhea, libido increased/decreased

Gastrointestinal: Abdominal pain, anorexia, appetite increased/decreased, coated tongue, constipation, dehydration, diarrhea, encopresis, gastritis, gum soreness, nausea, weight changes (loss/gain), xerostomia

Genitourinary: Colpitis, dysuria, ejaculation delayed, enuresis, impotence, micturition frequency, nocturia, urinary retention, urinary tract infection

Hematologic: Anemia, eosinophilia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia

Hepatic: Alkaline phosphatase increased (transient), hepatomegaly, transaminases increased (transient)
Neuromuscular & skeletal: Choreiform movements, coordination abnormal, dysarthria, hypotonia, muscle pain, muscle weakness, myalgia, tremor
Ocular: Blurred vision, eye movements abnormal, diplopia, nystagmus
Respiratory: Bronchitis, chest congestion, cough, hypersecretions, pharyngitis, respiratory depression, respiratory tract infection, rhinitis, rhinorrhea, shortness of breath, sinusitis
Miscellaneous: Allergic reaction, aphonia, dysdiadochokinesis, “glassy-eyed” appearance, hemiparesis, flu-like syndrome, lymphadenopathy.

Pregnancy Risk Factor: D