

## **What is Klonopin® (Clonazepam)?**

Klonopin® is an anti-epileptic drug that has been used to treat patients with epilepsy since 1975. It is helpful in the treatment of Partial Seizures, Generalized Tonic-Clonic Seizures, Absence Seizures, and Myoclonic Seizures.

## **Starting the Medicine:**

We usually gradually increase the dose, until your body gets adjusted to the medication. Since each patient is unique in that he/she breaks down the medication differently or may need a higher or lower dosage to control their seizures, there is no standard dose that is appropriate for all patients.

## **What is the dosage of the pill and what does it look like?**

0.5 mg round, orange tablet

1 mg round, blue tablet

2 mg round, white tablet.

## **What Side Effects Can Be Caused by Klonopin®?**

Side effects can be dose related (common) or idiosyncratic (rare):

### **Common Dose-Related Side Effects:**

Drowsiness is the most common side effect.

If this occurs, your doctor may:

- have you take the medication at bedtime
- split the dose, with a larger amount at bedtime

**Rare Side Effects:**

Rare side effects include: muscular incoordination, difficulty walking, memory or concentration problems, and depression.

**Skin Rash:**

An allergic reaction, or rash, may occur with Klonopin. If this occurs, notify your doctor immediately.

**Pregnancy:**

There are concerns about fetal abnormalities occurring in pregnant women who take Klonopin®. Any woman taking Klonopin® should discuss these issues with her doctor **BEFORE** becoming pregnant. Mothers taking Klonopin should not breast feed their infants.

**How Do I Take This Medication?**

It is very important to take your medication regularly since a stable blood level helps to reduce seizures. Therefore, the medication does NOT work when taken on an as needed basis. It is usually prescribed in one to three daily doses.

**Can I Take Klonopin® with Other Medications?**

Klonopin® can be taken with most medications. Narcotics and some other types of medications may increase the risk of sedative effects with Klonopin. Always tell your doctor what other medications you are taking.

**What Should I Do If I Miss a Dose?**

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. You may have to change your usual times to take your other doses when trying to make up the missed dose. Consult your doctor if needed.

## **Are Blood Levels Checked for Klonopin®?**

Blood levels are not routinely checked for Klonopin®. Dosing is based more on tolerance and seizure control.

## **Why is My Blood Checked for SGOT?**

Klonopin® is broken down by the liver. The SGOT is an indirect test of liver function which helps assess whether or not Klonopin is having any adverse effect on the liver.

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