

Generic Name: Clonazepam Brand Name: Rivotril

What Is It Used For?

- Decreasing seizure activity in partial and generalized seizures.
- Useful for myclonic and atonic seizures.
- Useful with Lennox-Gastaut

What Are The Important Safety Concerns?

- When first starting the medicine, your child may be slightly drowsy and dizzy.
- Only adjust the dosage as recommended by your health care provider. He/she will usually increase this medication slowly to avoid side effects. Never increase the dosage more than **once per week** unless directed otherwise.
- Once you have started with one brand of the medication stay with it. Avoid switching between different brands.
- Check with your pharmacist before taking herbal medications and/or over-the-counter medications. They may have adverse effects if taken with anti-seizure medications.
- Do not stop taking this medication suddenly because this could result in seizures.
- It is important to keep a record of your child's seizures and side effects to determine how well he/she is responding to the medication.

What are the Possible Side Effects?

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|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Drowsiness** | • Increased Saliva* | • Blurred Vision |
| • Constipation* | • Nausea* | • Loss of Appetite |
| • Depression* | • Nervousness* | • Slurred Speech |
| • Dizziness* | • Staggering * | • Headache |

*more common side effects

How Do I Give The Medication?

- If possible, give on an empty stomach. Do not take with an antacid medication.
- Give your child the medication as close to the same time as possible each day and only the amount prescribed.
- If your child misses a dose, give the dose as soon as you remember or can. If the next dose of the medicine needs to be given in less than 4 hours, do **not** give the dose you forgot. Give the next dose a little earlier and then return to giving the medicine at the usual times after that.
- If your child vomits within 30 minutes of taking the medication, repeat the dose.
- If your child vomits after 30 minutes of taking the medication, do not repeat the dose.

What Medications Alter The Effectiveness Of This Drug?

- Carbamazepine (Tegretol) - decreases the effect of Clonazepam.
- May be very sedating if used with Phenobarbital, Primidone or Valproic Acid.
- Avoid giving with Grapefruit juice (increases blood levels of medication)

When Do I Call My Health Care Provider?

Call your health care provider or go to your nearest emergency room if you are concerned about your child in any way. With Clonazepam the following would be of concern

- A rash or skin sores
- More seizures
- Excessive sleepiness
- Unusual bleeding
- Becomes more aggressive
- Hyperactivity
- Unusual bruising
- Tiny purple spots on skin

What Are The Available Forms And Dosages?

- 0.5 mg Tablet
- 2 mg Tablet