Department of Neurosciences

Clobazam drug information

For
- Patients
- Staff

Drug and brand names
- Clobazam
- Frisium
- Tapclob suspension (not usually used)

Formulations
Clobazam is available in 10mg tablets. It is not available in the form of an injection. An oral suspension is available (10mg/5ml and 5mg/5ml), although rarely used at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Uses
Clobazam belongs to a group of drugs known as benzodiazepines. It works at multiple receptors in the brain and can help to keep epileptic seizures under control. It is used in addition to other antiepileptic medication to reduce seizure frequency and severity. Clobazam can occasionally be used for short periods of time to treat severe anxiety.

Side effects (the list of side effects is not exhaustive, please refer to product literature for full list)
Side effects are usually experienced at the start of treatment. Possible side effects are:
- Drowsiness and sedation
- Double vision or blurred vision
- Slowing or slurring of speech
- Dry mouth, constipation, reduced appetite and nausea
- Dizziness, unsteady walking or tremor in the fingers
- Muscle fatigue and weakness, occasional tremor
- Forgetfulness and restlessness
- Dependence
- Rash
- Mood changes such as aggressiveness, irritability and depression. All antiepileptic medication can cause feelings of depression, or severe mood changes. If you experience any of these please contact your specialist.
Side effects may be helped by reducing the dose and they usually stop upon withdrawal of the medication.

If you experience any of these side effects, please contact the epilepsy nurse (contact details are at the end of the leaflet) or your GP.

**Contraception**
Clobazam is not reported to affect the oral contraceptive pill or other forms of contraception.

**Pregnancy and breastfeeding**
Clobazam should not ideally be used in pregnancy; you should discuss treatment with your doctor before you conceive. We recommend you take folic acid 5mg daily from at least twelve weeks prior to conception until the end of week 12 of pregnancy.

Clobazam may make the baby drowsy after delivery, which slightly increases the chance of the baby needing medical help with breathing. It is possible that the baby may experience withdrawal symptoms due to being exposed to clobazam before birth. The baby may also have problems with suckling.

Clobazam is not usually recommended to be taken by breastfeeding mothers. Please seek specialist advice.

**Drug interactions**
Clobazam may affect how other antiepileptic and other medications work when taken together. These interactions are rare and in a majority of patients the effect are slight. Clobazam can affect or be affected by other medication. It is important that you inform your doctor about other medication you may be taking including anti epileptic drugs.

**Other useful information**
- Clobazam can increase the effects of alcohol; avoid drinking alcohol when taking clobazam. Take the medication at the same time of day as prescribed by your doctor. Do not stop taking clobazam suddenly as this can trigger withdrawal seizures.
- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at once.
- Keep a record of your seizures when you start any new medication. This will help determine future drug dosages.
- Store clobazam below 25 degrees and in the packaging that it comes in.

**Contact details**
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the epilepsy nurse specialist on 01223 217992.
The information on this leaflet is not exhaustive. Please refer to the patient information leaflet prepared by the manufacturer of your drug which can be found in the medicine packaging.

We are now a smoke-free site: smoking will not be allowed anywhere on the hospital site.
For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169.

Other formats:
If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio, please ask the department where you are being treated, to contact the patient information team: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk.
Please note: We do not currently hold many leaflets in other languages; written translation requests are funded and agreed by the department who has authored the leaflet.

Document history
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