

About your medication

CLONIDINE

(CATAPRES® 100 microgram, 150
microgram tablets)

Other brands may be available

WHAT IS CLONIDINE?

Clonidine belongs to a group of medications known as central alpha-2 agonists. It is only available with a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

It is used in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD or ADD). It is also used to treat conditions such as high blood pressure, migraine and Tourette's Syndrome. It may also be useful for treating difficult to control pain and to help patients wean off other medications.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and not given to other people. Do not give more or less without the advice of your child's doctor.

Some children start at a low dose which is gradually increased, depending on response. It may take several weeks for the full beneficial effects to be seen.

For attention deficit hyperactivity disorder the tablet(s) may be prescribed ONE to FOUR times a day. If prescribed ONCE daily, it is best given at bedtime.

The tablet(s) can be given with or without food. Tablets may be crushed to make them easier to swallow.

WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of the medication it can be given as soon as you remember. Do not give the missed dose if it is close to the next one, just give the next dose as normal. **Do not double up on any doses.**

If your child takes clonidine only at bedtime do not give the missed dose the next morning. The medicine may cause side effects during the day. Wait until the next regular bedtime dose.

STORING THE MEDICINE

It is important to keep clonidine locked away out of the reach of children. Do not keep the tablets in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct light.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Care must be taken when using clonidine with some other medications. Check with your child's doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription medicine or medicine purchased without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop.

- Medications used to treat seizures (fits) such as phenytoin, phenobarbitone, clonazepam, lamotrigine or carbamazepine.
- Medicines which may make your child sleepy such as sedatives, tranquillisers, strong pain relievers, anti-histamines or some “cold and flu” preparations.
- Other medications that may affect blood pressure or some used for heart problems

This list is not complete. Talk to your child’s doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Initially, this medicine may make your child feel dizzy, lightheaded or faint. Care must be taken with riding bikes or climbing trees until you know how your child is affected.
- Dry mouth can also occur while taking clonidine. Chewing sugarless gum or sweets or giving sips of water may help. If this continues to be a problem contact your doctor.
- Some gastrointestinal symptoms, such as nausea and vomiting, are common.
- Do not stop giving clonidine without first checking with your child’s doctor. When the medication is no longer required your doctor may want to slowly decrease the dose before stopping completely.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can occur while taking clonidine. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your child’s doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • drowsiness | • headache, fatigue and weakness |
| • dry mouth | |
| • feeling faint or lightheaded | • nausea and vomiting |
| • constipation | |

More Serious (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- very slow heartbeat

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- Skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT



***Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard
on 03 9345 5522***

OR

***Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26
(24 hour service)***

This leaflet answers some common questions about your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – OCTOBER 2010.
