

Clonidine

(Clon – i – deen)

How this medication is used

Clonidine has other names such as Catapres or Dixarit. It was originally used to treat high blood pressure, but it is now used to treat many different problems. It may be used for:

- some types of pain
- withdrawal from opiates and nicotine
- diarrhea in ulcerative colitis
- migraine headaches
- hot flashes during menopause

Reminders

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the medications you take, including the ones you buy without a prescription. Some medications and health conditions can cause problems with Clonidine. Tell your doctor if you:

- are taking medications for high blood pressure
- are taking antidepressants
- have had a stroke or heart attack
- have kidney disease, depression, Reynaud's syndrome or lupus

Do not suddenly stop taking this medication without checking with your doctor first. When stopped quickly this medication can cause life threatening high blood pressure. Make sure you refill medication on time.

If you are having surgery, tell your anesthesiologist and surgeon that you take Clonidine. Do not skip the dose just before surgery.

When it is time to stop taking this medication, your doctor may slowly decrease the amount you take.

Check your blood pressure. If taking other medications for high blood pressure, Clonidine may further lower your blood pressure.

please turn over →

How to take this medication

- Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor.
- To avoid stomach upset, take this medication with food.
- If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and take at your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.
- **Tablet:** Swallow whole with a full glass of water or juice. Do not crush or chew.

While taking this medication you may notice

- **A dry mouth.** Suck on ice chips, sugar-free candy or chew sugar-free gum. Good care of your teeth is very important at this time.
- **Dizziness.** Get up slowly when you have been sitting or lying down. If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you are no longer dizzy, then get up slowly.
- **Drowsiness.** Until you know how it affects you, do not drive or operate machinery.
- **Loss of appetite.**
- **Trouble sleeping.**

Many of these side effects will go away within 4 to 6 weeks as your body gets used to this medication.

Contact your doctor or seek medical help if you notice:

- your heart beat is not regular
- your heart beat is slower than normal
- mood changes
- you feel anxious, restless
- you feel less interested or able to have sex