

Cyclobenzaprine

(sye – kloe – BEN – za – preen)

How this medication is used

Cyclobenzaprine has other names but one of the most common is Flexeril[®]. It is used to treat chronic pain from muscle spasm, stiffness or fibromyalgia. It is usually used for 2 to 3 weeks for acute muscle injury, such as low back pain, since effectiveness decreases over time. It may be used longer for fibromyalgia.

Reminders

- It can interact with many other medications, such as tramadol, duloxetine, guanethidine, cisapride and methadone. Check with your doctor or pharmacist each time you start taking a new medication.
- Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions.
- Tell your doctor if you are taking any medications for depression. Cyclobenzaprine should not be used with monoamine oxidase inhibiting (MAOI) drugs such as phenelzine, tranlycypromine, moclobemide or selegiline within the past 2 weeks. High fever, seizures and even death can occur when these drugs are used together.
- You should not be taking this medication if you have had a recent heart attack or if you have irregular heartbeats or hyperthyroidism.

How to take this medication

- Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not stop taking it without checking with your doctor first. When it is time to stop taking this medication, your doctor may slowly decrease the amount you take.
- If you miss a dose, 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.

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.
- **Increased effects of alcohol.** Making you more sleepy, dizzy and lightheaded. Do not drink alcohol (wine, beer and liquor) while on this medication.
- **Sensitivity to sunlight.** Avoid direct sunlight. Cover up, wear sunscreen, hat and sunglasses as needed.
- **Nausea.** Take with food.
- **Dry eyes or blurred vision.** If you wear contact lenses, lubricating drops may help.
- **Headache.**

Contact your doctor or seek medical help if you notice

- chest pain
- fast heartbeat
- hallucinations
- seizures
- vomiting
- allergic reactions such a skin rash or swelling of the face