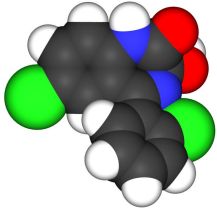


Lorazepam (pronounced law-raz-e-pam)



What is lorazepam?

Lorazepam is a benzodiazepine. It is made as tablets. It is also made as an injection, although this is usually only used for when someone is really ill e.g. psychiatric emergency.

What does lorazepam help?

Lorazepam is mainly used to help treat the symptoms of anxiety. It can also be used to help the symptoms of panic, social anxiety and a crisis.

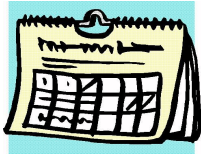
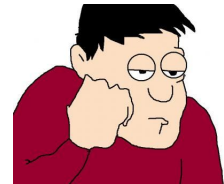


How and when should I take lorazepam?

Swallow the tablets with at least half a glass of water whilst sitting or standing. This is to make sure that they reach the stomach and do not stick in your throat. Taking it at mealtimes may make it easier for you to remember as there is no problem about taking lorazepam with or after food.

How long will I have to wait before it works?

This will depend on what you are taking it for but the effect usually starts in a day or so, and builds over several weeks.

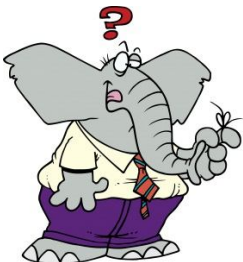


How long will I need to keep taking lorazepam for?

This will depend on what you are taking it for. It may be for several weeks or possibly longer.

Can I stop taking lorazepam suddenly?

It is better not to do this without talking it over first with other people e.g. relatives or your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Things normally work out much better if you stop medication in a planned way. Your symptoms can return if treatment is stopped too early. This may occur some days, weeks or even months after lorazepam has been stopped. When the time comes, you should withdraw lorazepam by a gradual reduction in the dose over several weeks.



What should I do if I forget to take a dose of lorazepam?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember unless it is within about 4 hours of your next dose. If you remember after this just take the next dose as normal. Do not try to catch up by taking two doses at once as you may get more side-effects.

Can I cycle or drive while I am taking lorazepam?

You may feel a bit light-headed at first when taking lorazepam. Until this wears off, or you know how lorazepam affects you, be careful cycling and, if you are old enough, do not drive or operate machinery.



What sort of side-effects might I get with lorazepam?

The table below will show you some of the main side effects you might get from lorazepam, and what you can do about them. The more common ones are near the top of the list.

	<p>Sleepiness Feeling sleepy or sluggish. This can last for a few hours or longer after taking a dose. Don't drive, cycle or use machinery. Ask your doctor if you can take lorazepam at a different time of day. It should wear off after a while.</p>		<p>Feeling dizzy, light-headed or faint, especially when you stand up Do not stand up too quickly. Try to lie down when you feel it coming on. Do not cycle or drive.</p>
	<p>Ataxia This is where you feel unsteady on your feet. Your dose may be too high. Talk to your doctor or nurse about this.</p>		<p>Headache If your head is painful, paracetamol usually helps.</p>
	<p>Confusion Your mind is all mixed up. Your dose may be too high. Contact your doctor now.</p>		<p>Amnesia Loss of short-term memory. Difficulty in remembering. It is not dangerous. Discuss with your doctor if you are worried.</p>

Do not be worried by this list of side effects. Some people get no side effects at all and others may get some effects that are not listed in this table. If you think you might have a side effect to your medicine, you should ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. If you want to know more, go to our website for links to other websites with more information.

The small print: This leaflet is to help you understand about your medicine. You should also read the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (PIL). You may find lots more on the internet but beware as internet-based information is not always accurate. Do not share medicines with anyone else. Go to our website for fuller answers to these and many other questions e.g. driving, women's health, how it works, doses and interactions, and about the conditions. The "Handy charts" will help you compare the main medicines for each condition, how they work and their side effects.