

Drug

Kapvay

clonidine

Patient Education

Generic Name: clonidine (oral)

Pronounced: KLOE ni deen

Brand Names: Catapres, Kapvay, Nexiclon XR

What is the most important information I should know about clonidine?

Before you take clonidine, tell your doctor if you have heart disease or severe coronary artery disease, a heart rhythm disorder, slow heartbeats, low blood pressure, a history of heart attack or stroke, kidney disease, or if you have ever had an allergic reaction to a clonidine transdermal skin patch (Catapres TTS).

Do not take two forms of clonidine at the same time.



If you need surgery, tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using clonidine. You may need to stop using the medicine for a short time.



Do not stop using clonidine suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Ask your doctor how to avoid withdrawal symptoms when you stop using clonidine.

If you are being treated for high blood pressure, keep using this medication even if you feel well. High blood pressure often has no symptoms. You may need to use blood pressure medication for the rest of your life.



Clonidine may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert.

Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated during exercise and in hot weather.

What is clonidine?

Clonidine lowers blood pressure by decreasing the levels of certain chemicals in your blood. This allows your blood vessels to relax and your heart to beat more slowly and easily.

Clonidine is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure). The *Kapvay* brand of clonidine is used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Clonidine may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before taking clonidine?



You should not take this medication if you are allergic to clonidine.

To make sure you can safely take clonidine, tell your doctor if you have any of these other conditions:

heart disease or severe coronary artery disease;

heart rhythm disorder, slow heartbeats;

low blood pressure;

a history of heart attack or stroke;

pheochromocytoma (tumor of the adrenal gland);

kidney disease; or

if you have ever had an allergic reaction to a clonidine transdermal skin patch (Catapres TTS).



FDA pregnancy category C. It is not known if clonidine is harmful to an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during treatment.



Clonidine can pass into breast milk and may harm a nursing baby. Do not take this medication without telling your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.



Do not give *Kapvay* to a child younger than 6 years old.

How should I take clonidine?

Take exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results.

Do not take two forms of clonidine at the same time.

Clonidine may be taken with or without food.



Shake the oral suspension (*liquid*) well just before you measure a dose. Measure the liquid with a special dose measuring spoon or medicine cup, not with a regular table spoon. If you do not have a dose measuring device, ask your pharmacist for one.



Do not crush, chew, or break an *extended-release tablet*. Swallow it whole. Breaking the pill may cause too much of the drug to be released at one time.



If you need surgery, tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using clonidine. You may need to stop using the medicine for a short time.



Do not stop using clonidine suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms.

Ask your doctor how to avoid withdrawal symptoms when you stop using clonidine.

If you are being treated for high blood pressure, keep using this medication even if you feel well. High blood pressure often has no symptoms. You may need to use blood pressure medication for the rest of your life.



Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. *Do not* take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?



Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include high blood pressure (severe headache, blurred vision, buzzing in your ears, anxiety, confusion, chest pain, shortness of breath) followed by low blood pressure (feeling light-headed, fainting), drowsiness, cold feeling, slow heart rate, shallow breathing, weakness, fainting, or pinpoint pupils.

What should I avoid while taking clonidine?

Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated during exercise and in hot weather.



Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects of clonidine.



Clonidine may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert.

What are the possible side effects of clonidine?



Get emergency medical help if you have any of these *signs of an allergic reaction*: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.



Call your doctor at once if you have a serious side effect such as:

fast or pounding heartbeats, tremors;

a very slow heart rate (fewer than 60 beats per minute);

feeling short of breath, even with mild exertion;

swelling, rapid weight gain;

confusion, hallucinations;

flu symptoms;

urination problems; or

feeling like you might pass out.

Less serious side effects may include:

drowsiness, dizziness;

feeling tired or irritable;

cold symptoms such as runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, cough, sore throat;

mood changes;

sleep problems (insomnia), nightmares;

headache, ear pain;

mild fever;

feeling hot;

constipation, diarrhea, pain in your upper stomach;

dry mouth, increased thirst; or

loss of interest in sex, impotence, difficulty having an orgasm.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What other drugs will affect clonidine?



Before taking clonidine, tell your doctor if you regularly use other medicines that make you sleepy (such as cold or allergy medicine, narcotic pain medicine, sleeping pills, muscle relaxers, and medicine for seizures, depression, or anxiety). They can add to sleepiness caused by clonidine.

Tell your doctor about all other medications you use, especially:

clonidine transdermal skin patches (Catapres TTS);

digitalis (digoxin, Lanoxin, Lanoxicaps);

an antidepressant such as amitriptyline (Elavil, Vanatrip, Limbitrol), doxepin (Sinequan), nortriptyline (Pamelor), and others;

a beta-blocker such as atenolol (Tenormin, Tenoretic), carvedilol (Coreg), labetalol (Normodyne, Trandate), metoprolol (Dutoprol, Lopressor, Toprol), nadolol (Corgard), propranolol (Inderal, InnoPran), sotalol (Betapace), and others;

heart or blood pressure medicine such as amlodipine (Norvasc, Caduet, Exforge, Lotrel, Tekamlo, Tribenzor, Twynsta), diltiazem (Cartia, Cardizem), nifedipine (Nifedical, Procardia), verapamil (Calan, Covera, Isoptin, Verelan), and others;

medicines to treat psychiatric disorders, such as chlorpromazine (Thorazine), clozapine (Clozaril, FazaClo), fluphenazine (Permitil, Prolixin), haloperidol (Haldol), olanzapine (Zyprexa, Symbyax), perphenazine (Trilafon), prochlorperazine (Compazine), risperidone (Risperdal), thiothixene (Navane), trifluoperazine (Stelazine), and others; or

any other drugs to treat high blood pressure or heart problems.

This list is not complete and other drugs may interact with clonidine. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and herbal products. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor.

Where can I get more information?

Your pharmacist can provide more information about clonidine.

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Copyright 1996-2012 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 8.01. Revision Date: 7/6/2012.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided by Cerner Multum, Inc. ('Multum') is accurate, up-to-date, and complete, but no guarantee is made to that effect. Drug information contained herein may be time sensitive. Multum information has been compiled for use by healthcare practitioners and consumers in the United States and therefore Multum does not warrant that uses outside of the United States are appropriate, unless specifically indicated otherwise.

Multum's drug information does not endorse drugs, diagnose patients or recommend therapy. Multum's drug information is an informational resource designed to assist licensed healthcare practitioners in caring for their patients and/or to serve consumers viewing this service as a supplement to, and not a substitute for, the expertise, skill, knowledge and judgment of healthcare practitioners. The absence of a warning for a given drug or drug combination in no way should be construed to indicate that the drug or drug combination is safe, effective or appropriate for any given patient. Multum does not assume any responsibility for any aspect of healthcare administered with the aid of information Multum provides.

The information contained herein is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, warnings, drug interactions, allergic reactions, or adverse effects. If you have questions about the drugs you are taking, check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Substantial effort has been made to ensure that the information provided by Epocrates is accurate and up-to-date, but this information is not intended to cover all possible uses, precautions, or other considerations relating to the therapies covered. Epocrates does not advocate or endorse the use of any drug or other therapy and does not diagnose patients. Healthcare professionals should use their professional judgment in using this information, and this information should not be considered a substitute for the care and professional judgment provided by a licensed healthcare practitioner. This information is provided on an "as is" basis, and Epocrates and its affiliates, agents and licensors assume no responsibility for any aspect of healthcare administered with the aid of this information or any other use of the information.

Copyright © 2013 Epocrates, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Epocrates® Online is a trademark of Epocrates Inc, in the U.S. and elsewhere.