



EPILEPSY & Medication

Clobazam (FRISIUM®)

Used for:

- Tonic clonic seizures.
- Partial seizures.
- Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.
- Catamenial (menstrual cycle) seizures.
- Typically used in combination with other anti-epileptic medications.
- Some patients may develop tolerance to clobazam over time.

Precautions:

- Tell your doctor if you have a history of impaired liver or kidney function.
- Physical and psychological dependency could develop. Tell your doctor if you have a history of drug abuse, psychological dependence, depression or psychosis.
- People who are elderly, debilitated, have respiratory problems or organic brain disorders should use clobazam with caution.
- Caution required if driving, operating major machines or performing hazardous tasks while on clobazam.

Possible side effects:

Depending on the individual, side effects may occur at varying degrees or not at all, including:

- Drowsiness.
- Dizziness.
- Fatigue.
- Blurred vision.
- Lack of coordination.
- Irritability.
- Excitement.
- Dry or watery mouth.
- Can worsen seizures, especially simple partial seizures (auras).
- Weight gain.
- Occasional behavioural side-effects.



This material has been reviewed by the Ontario Drug Information and Research Centre and is offered to provide general information to the public. It is not intended to be taken as medical advice. Epilepsy Toronto and its advisors accept no liability. Consult your physician and/or neurologist with any questions you may have.

Allergic Reactions/Idiosyncratic

- Rash (if you notice a rash seek immediate medical help).
- Depression, rarely.

Tips For Using Clobazam (Frisium®):

- Use caution when operating machinery or performing hazardous tasks.
- Side effects like drowsiness usually disappear in a few weeks.
- Do not combine alcohol with this drug.
- Take clobazam exactly as prescribed.
- Do not stop taking clobazam abruptly.

Drug Interactions:

- Alcohol and cimetidine (Tagamet®) may increase blood levels of clobazam.
- Alcohol and other drugs that slow down the nervous system (CNS depressants) may interact with clobazam to increase CNS depressant effects.
- Clobazam's interaction with other anti-epileptic drugs is variable.

Daily Dosage:

Adults – 20 - 40 mg/day (maximum of 80 mg/day)

Children - 0.25 - 1 mg/kg/day up to a maximum of 40 mg/day

Initially doses are started low with gradual increases based on individual response.

Forms:

Tablets –10 mg

Missed Dose:

Try to take each dose at the scheduled time. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered. Do not take it if it is near the time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not “double-up” the dose to catch up. If you skip a whole day, inform your doctor.

Storage:

Store at room temperature (15 to 30 C), protect from light, heat, moisture, and keep out of reach of children.

In Pregnancy:

- Women who are considering pregnancy should first consult their doctor.
- Anti-epileptic medications may slightly increase the risk of fetal abnormalities.
- Clobazam use should be avoided during pregnancy if possible, especially during the first trimester.
- Clobazam passes into breastmilk and should be avoided by nursing mothers.

Warning:

Abrupt withdrawal of any anti-epileptic medication may trigger status epilepticus, a potentially fatal condition of continued seizures without recovery. When there is a need for reduction, discontinuation or substitution of the medication, this should be done gradually and under the physician's care. Never discontinue anti-epileptic medications or make changes in activities unless specifically advised to do so by an attending physician.