

CLONAZEPAM WITHDRAWAL



Other names

Rivotril

Drug category

Benzodiazepine

Uses

Clonazepam is used for anxiety and as add-on therapy for all types of epilepsy.

Available forms

Tablet (0.5/2 mg), liquid (0.1 mg/ml). 1/20 of clobazam dose if converting

Withdrawal effects

Rapidly stopping clonazepam can cause seizures, drowsiness, dizziness, restlessness and unsteadiness. These are common in the first 2-4 weeks after stopping suddenly. Withdrawal may also worsen depression, anxiety or insomnia.

How to withdraw it – CLONAZEPAM (Beware micrograms and milligrams)

The following is all in MILLIGRAMS. Reduce clonazepam by 0.5mg (HALF MILLIGRAM) every 4 weeks down to 0.5mg (HALF MILLIGRAM) per day. Then follow this schedule.

Week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0	0.5mg	0.5mg	0.5mg	0.5mg	0.5mg	0.5mg	0.5mg
1	0.5mg	Nil	0.5mg	0.5mg	0.5mg	Nil	0.5mg
5	0.5mg	Nil	0.5mg	Nil	0.5mg	Nil	0.5mg
9	0.5mg	Nil	0.5mg	Nil	0.5mg	Nil	Nil
13	0.5mg	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.5mg	Nil	Nil
17	Stop clonazepam completely						

An alternative is to switch 0.5mg clonazepam to 5mg diazepam, which can be reduced as follows

How to withdraw it – DIAZEPAM

Week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0	5mg	5mg	5mg	5mg	5mg	5mg	5mg
1	4mg	4mg	4mg	4mg	4mg	4mg	4mg
3	3mg	3mg	3mg	3mg	3mg	3mg	3mg
5	2mg	2mg	2mg	2mg	2mg	2mg	2mg
7	1mg	1mg	1mg	1mg	1mg	1mg	1mg
9	Stop diazepam completely						

If any of the above withdrawal side-effects occur, the drug reduction can be paused for an extra 2-4 weeks and then continued.

This information is for guidance only. Always read the medicine information leaflet with any new medicine for full details.