

About your medication

C L O B A Z A M

(F r i s i u m ® 1 0 m g)

Other brands may be available

WHAT IS CLOBAZAM?

Clobazam is from a group of medications known as benzodiazepines. It is only available on a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

It can be used for treatment of anxiety (short term only), sleep disturbances associated with anxiety and control of seizures (fits) in patients with epilepsy. It works by acting on an imbalance of chemicals in the brain.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and not given to other people. Treatment should be reviewed regularly by your doctor

Tablets may be crushed for swallowing and can be given with food or on an empty stomach. This medication should be taken at the same time each day for best effects.

WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of the medication it can be taken as soon as you remember. Do not take the missed dose if it is close to the next one, just take the next dose as normal. **Do not double up on any doses.**

STORING THE MEDICINE

It is important to keep clobazam locked away out of the reach of children.

Do not keep the tablets in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct sunlight.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Care must be taken when using clobazam with some other medications. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other prescription medicine, or medicine purchased without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop. This is important for:

- medicines that can make your child sleepy such as sleeping tablets, tranquillisers, sedatives, anti-histamines, anti-depressants, some pain relievers, or muscle relaxants.
- some drugs used to treat seizures or fits such as valproate, phenytoin, phenobarbitone or carbamazepine.

This list is not complete. Talk to your child's doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Clobazam may make your child sleepy. Your child should avoid activities like riding bikes, or climbing trees until you know how this medicine will affect them.

Do not suddenly stop giving this medication to your child without first checking with the doctor. Clobazam must be decreased slowly under the supervision of your doctor.

If clobazam is being used for anxiety or sleep disturbances it should be prescribed for short periods only (up to 1 month).

If this medicine does not control your child's seizure or if they have more seizures than before they started, tell your child's doctor. Caution for adolescent patients who may be driving cars or boats or operating equipment or other hazardous activities where alertness and quick judgement are required.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can occur while taking clobazam. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- dizziness or drowsiness
- lack of co-ordination
- dry mouth
- headache

More Serious (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- irritability, agitation or anger
- severe confusion
- sudden excitation or anxiety

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- Skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT



Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard on 03 9345 5522
OR

Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26 (24 hour service)

This leaflet answers some common questions about your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – OCTOBER 2010.
