

Amotril®

clonazepam 0.5 mg & 2 mg tablets

Composition:
Each tablet contains:
Amotril® 0.5 mg tablets:
Active ingredients: Lactose Monohydrate, Microcrystalline cellulose, PVP K30 Croscarmellose, PVP K30, Magnesium Stearate, Purified talc, Patent blue, Croscarmellose Sodium.
Amotril® 2 mg tablets:
Active ingredients: Lactose Monohydrate, Microcrystalline cellulose, PVP K30 Croscarmellose, PVP K30, Magnesium Stearate, Purified talc, Patent blue, Croscarmellose Sodium.
Pharmaceutical form:
Amotril® 0.5 mg very light flat pentagonal biconvex tablet bisected from one side and engraved with AMOTIL logo on the other side.
Amotril® 2 mg flat pentagonal biconvex tablet bisected from one side and engraved with AMOTIL logo on the other side.

Amotril® 0.5 mg and **Amotril® 2 mg** tablets can be divided into equal doses.

Precaution and method of administration:

Posology:
Initial dose should be 1mg of clonazepam daily.

The maintenance dosage for adults normally falls in the range 4 to 6 mg.

Elderly:
Initial dose should not exceed 0.5 mg of Clonazepam daily. The elderly is particularly sensitive to the effects of centrally depressant drugs and may experience confusion.

Children and infants:
Children should receive the 0.5 mg of Clonazepam to ensure optimum dosage adjustment.

Initial dose should not exceed 0.2 mg of Clonazepam daily for infants and small children (5 years).

Initial dose should not exceed 0.5 mg of Clonazepam daily for older children.

The maintenance dosage normally falls within the ranges:

Infants (0 - 1 year) 0.5 - 1 mg of Clonazepam daily.

Small children (1 - 5 years) 1 - 3 mg of Clonazepam daily.

School children (5-12 years) 2 - 6 mg of Clonazepam daily.

In some forms of childhood epilepsy, certain patients may come to be adequately controlled by clonazepam. Control may be re-established by increasing the dose or interrupting treatment with clonazepam for 2 or 3 weeks. During the interruption in therapy, careful observation and other drugs may be needed.

In patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment the dose should be adjusted to individual requirements and will probably be lower.

Method of administration:

For oral administration.

Treatment should be started with low doses. The dose may be increased progressively until the maintenance dose suited to the individual patient has been found. The cross scored tablets facilitate the administration of lower daily doses in the initial stages of treatment.

The dosage of clonazepam must be adjusted to the needs of each individual and depends on the individual response to therapy. The maintenance dosage must be determined according to clinical response and tolerance.

The daily dose should be divided into 3 or 4 doses throughout the day. If doses are not equally divided, the largest dose should be given before retiring. Once the maintenance dose has been reached, the daily amount may be given in a single dose in the morning.

Simultaneous administration of more than one antiepileptic drug is a common practice in the treatment of epilepsy and may be undertaken with clonazepam. The dosage of each drug may be required to be adjusted to obtain the optimum effect. Status epilepticus occurs in a patient receiving clonazepam and other antiepileptic drugs may control the status. Before adding clonazepam to an existing antiepileptic regimen it should be considered that the use of multiple antiepileptics may result in an increase of undesired effects. If necessary, larger doses may be given at the discretion of the physician up to a maximum of 20 mg daily. The maintenance dose should be started after 2 or 3 weeks of treatment.

Contraindications:

hypersensitivity to the active substance or any of the excipients.

Acute pulmonary insufficiency, severe respiratory insufficiency, sleep apnoea syndrome, myasthenia gravis, severe hepatic insufficiency.

Amotril® should not be used in patients in a coma, or in patients known to be taking pharmaceutical drugs at risk of alcohol.

Warnings and Precautions:

Social isolation:

Social isolation and behaviour have been reported in patients treated with antiepileptic agents in several indications. A meta-analysis of randomised placebo-controlled trials of antiepileptic drugs have also shown a small increased risk of suicidal ideation and behaviour. The mechanism of this risk is not known and the available data do not exclude the possibility of an increased risk for clonazepam. Therefore patients should be monitored for signs of suicidal ideation and behaviour and appropriate treatment should be initiated. Patients and caregivers of patients should be advised to seek medical advice should signs of suicidal ideation and behaviour emerge, and/or any unusual changes in mood or behaviour.

Patients with a history of depression and/or suicidal thoughts should be kept under close supervision.

Use with caution in patients with chronic pulmonary insufficiency, or with renal or hepatic function impairment, and in the elderly or debilitated. In these cases, dosage should generally be reduced.

Careful adjust dosage in individual responses in patients with pre-existing disease of the liver or the respiratory system (e.g. chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and patients receiving treatment with other centrally acting medications or with concomitant antiepileptic agents.

Do not interrupt treatment abruptly, with all other antiepileptic drugs, treatment must be withdrawn gradually, by reducing the dose due to the risk of precipitating status epilepticus. This precaution must also be taken when withdrawing oral drug while the patient is still receiving clonazepam therapy.

Prolonged use of clonazepam may result in dependence with withdrawal symptoms on cessation of use.

Use with particular caution in patients with spinal or cerebellar ataxia, in the event of acute intoxication with alcohol or drugs and in patients with severe liver damage (e.g. cirrhosis of the liver).

The concomitant use of clonazepam with alcohol or with other CNS depressants should be avoided. Such concomitant use has the potential to increase the clinical effects of clonazepam possibly including severe toxicity, clinically relevant respiratory and/or cardio-vascular depression.

Use with extreme caution in patients with a history of alcohol or drug abuse.

Risk from concomitant use of opioids:

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The patients should be advised to be aware of the signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation. In the event, it is strongly recommended to inform patients and their caregivers about the risks of opioids and how to manage these symptoms.

Effects on the respiratory system may be aggravated by pre-existing airways obstruction or brain damage or if other medications which depress respiration have been given. As a rule, this effect can be avoided by careful adjustment of the dose to individual requirements.

Clonazepam is considered to be relatively non-potentiating, although there is some conflicting evidence. In rare cases, clonazepam has induced convulsions in patients with porphyria.

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Dependence:

Use of benzodiazepines may lead to the development of physical and psychological dependence upon these products. In particular long-term or high-dose treatment may lead to reversible disorders such as in depressed, reduced coordination of movements and gait disorder (ataxia), vertigo and double vision (diplopia).

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