

**ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC**  
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CLONIDINE - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Catapres

USES: This medication relaxes and dilates (expands) blood vessels resulting in lowered blood pressure. It is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure).

This drug may also be used to ease withdrawal symptoms associated with the long term use of narcotics.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Take this medication exactly as prescribed. Try to take it at the same time(s) each day.

Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when the drug is abruptly stopped. Your dose may need to be gradually decreased.

Tablets may be taken with food or milk to avoid stomach irritation.

It is important to continue taking this medication even if you feel well. Most people with high blood pressure do not feel sick.

SIDE EFFECTS: Dizziness, drowsiness, headache, constipation, loss of appetite, fatigue, nasal congestion and dry eyes may occur the first several days as your body adjusts to the medication.

To avoid dizziness and lightheadedness when rising from a seated or lying position, get up slowly.

Inform your doctor if you develop chest pain, difficulty breathing, difficulty urinating, skin rash, swelling of the hands or feet, or yellowing of the eyes or skin while taking this medication.

PRECAUTIONS: Tell your doctor if you have heart or circulatory problems or suffer from depression.

Before having surgery, including dental surgery, tell the doctor about your blood pressure medications.

Limit intake of alcohol.

Clonidine should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy, Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

This drug is excreted into breast milk. Though, to date, no problems been found in nursing infants, consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Tell your doctor what nonprescription and

prescription drugs you take such as nonprescription cough and cold products, antihypertensive medications called "beta blockers" (includes acebutolol, atenolol, labetalol, carteolol, betaxolol, metoprolol, nadolol, oxprenolol, penbutolol, pindolol, sotalol, propranolol and timolol). Also mention if you are taking any medication for depression (such as amitriptyline, amoxapine, clomipramine, desipramine, doxepin, imipramine, trimipramine, protriptyline, nortriptyline).

NOTES: It is important to have your blood pressure checked regularly while taking this medication. Learn how to monitor your blood pressure. Discuss this with your doctor.

Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take as soon as remembered; do not take if it is almost 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.

STORAGE: Store at room temperature between 59 and 86 degrees F (between 15 and 30 degrees C) away from moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.