

Medication Information

Clozapine (Kloe – za – peen)

Other names for this medication

Clozaril®

There are many other names for this medication.

How this medication is used

This medication is used to treat schizophrenia. It helps block psychotic thoughts.

This medication helps decrease anxiety, hallucinations, problems sleeping, agitation, aggressive behaviour and social withdrawal.

This medication may also be used to treat bipolar disorder.

It may take 4 weeks before this medication begins to work fully.

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your doctor or health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. It must be taken regularly, even if you are feeling well. Do not suddenly stop taking this medication without checking with your doctor first.

How to take this medication (continued)

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

This medication can reduce the white blood cells in your blood. White blood cells fight infection. You will need to have a blood test every 1 to 4 weeks to check the amount of white blood cells in your blood. This ensures you have enough white blood cells to fight infection.

Tell all your doctors that you are taking Clozapine. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medication, including those you can buy without a prescription such as antihistamines, cold remedies or natural and herbal products.

While taking this medication you may notice

- headache
- nausea and vomiting
- constipation
- increased sweating
- drowsiness or dizziness
- shaking
- drooling when you first take this medication
- weight gain
- sedation
- dizziness or feeling faint when getting up quickly
- less able to tolerate heat

Some of these effects will go away as your body gets used to the medication.

This medication does not mix well with alcohol in the body. Do not drink alcohol such as wine, beer and liquor while taking this medication.

This medication makes people drowsy. Until you know how this medication affects you, do not drive or operate machinery.

While taking this medication you may notice (continued)

To avoid weight gain follow a healthy diet and exercise plan. Talk to your doctor or dietitian for help.

If you have drooling and it bothers you, talk to your health care provider. Use a towel at night to cover your pillow and absorb extra saliva.

To prevent constipation, eat food high in fibre, drink 6 to 8 glasses of liquid each day and exercise regularly. Food high in fibre includes whole grain products, vegetables and fruits.

Contact your doctor if you notice

- severe muscle stiffness
- fast or irregular heartbeat
- fainting or seizures
- unusual tiredness
- blurred vision
- you feel more anxious, nervous or irritable
- signs of infection, such as fever, chills or sore throat
- yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes
- seizures

Contact your pharmacist if you have any questions about your medication.