

FOR PATIENTS



Ativan® (lorazepam) Tablets

Rx only

Ativan is used in the treatment of anxiety disorders and for short-term (up to 4 months) relief of the symptoms of anxiety. It belongs to a class of drugs known as benzodiazepines.

Ativan tablets are supplied in 0.5mg, 1mg or 2mg of lorazepam and are to be taken orally.

Most important fact about Ativan

Tolerance, physical and psychological dependence can develop with the use of Ativan. You may experience withdrawal symptoms if you stop using it abruptly. Only your doctor should advise you to discontinue or change your dose.

Most common adverse events

Most common adverse reactions to benzodiazepines, including CNS effects and respiratory depression, are dose dependent, with more severe effects occurring with high doses. In a sample of about 3500 patients treated with anxiety, the most frequent adverse reaction to Ativan (lorazepam) was sedation (15.9%), followed by dizziness (6.9%), weakness (4.2%), and unsteadiness (3.4%). The incidence of sedation and unsteadiness increased with age.

Why should this drug not be prescribed?

If you are sensitive to or have ever had an allergic reaction to Ativan or similar drugs such as Valium, you should not take this medication.

Also avoid Ativan if you have the eye disease, acute narrow-angle glaucoma.

Anxiety or tension to everyday stress usually does not require treatment with Ativan. Discuss your symptoms thoroughly with your doctor.

Special warnings about this medication

Ativan may cause you to become drowsy or less alert; therefore, driving or operating dangerous machinery or participating in any hazardous activity that requires full mental alertness is not recommended.

If you are severely depressed or have suffered from severe depression, consult with your doctor before taking this medication.

Not recommended for depressive or psychosis disorder.

Possible food and drug interactions when taking this medication

Ativan alone or in combination with other central nervous system (CNS) depressant may lead to fatal respiratory depression.

Ativan may intensify the effects of alcohol. Avoid alcohol while taking this medication.

If Ativan is taken with certain other drugs, the effects of either could be increased, decreased or altered. It is especially important to check with your doctor before combining Ativan with alcohol, barbiturates (Phenobarbital, Seconal, Amytal), sedative-type medications such as Valium or Halcion or anti-depressants, narcotic analgesics, anti-convulsants and anesthetics.

Special information if you are pregnant

Do not take Ativan if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. There is an increased risk of birth defects. It is not known whether Ativan appears in breast milk. If this medication is essential to your health, your doctor may advise you to discontinue breastfeeding until your treatment is finished.

Geriatric Use

Clinical studies of Ativan generally were not adequate to determine whether subjects aged 65 and over respond differently than younger subjects; however, the incidence of sedation and unsteadiness was observed to increase with age.

Children

The safety and effectiveness of Ativan has not been established in children less than 12 years of age.

