

Lonapam

Clonazepam

DESCRIPTION

Lonapam (clonazepam), a derivative of benzodiazepine mainly used as anticonvulsant drug. Lonapam bind to the benzodiazepine receptors in various region of the brain, including the brain stem, cerebellum, limbic system and cerebral cortex. **Lonapam** blocks EEG arousal on stimulation of the brain stem reticular formation. The binding of benzodiazepines to their receptor is influenced by both GABA and Cl⁻.

PHARMACOKINETICS

Lonapam is rapidly and completely absorbed after oral administration. The absolute bioavailability of **Lonapam** is about 90%. Maximum plasma concentrations are reached within 1 to 4 hours after oral administration. It is approximately 85% bound to plasma proteins. It is highly metabolized, with less than 2% unchanged **Lonapam** being excreted in the urine. The elimination half-life is typically 30 to 40 hours.

INDICATIONS

Lonapam is indicated for epilepsy (status epilepticus, lennox-gastaut syndrome, infantile spasms, absence seizures, myoclonic seizures, tonic-clonic seizures, akinetic and atonic seizures, partial seizures), drug-induced dyskinesias, fulgurant pain, bipolar affective disorder, choreiform movement and panic disorder, anxiety disorder and parasomias.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The standard dose of **Lonapam** must be individually adjusted according to the patient's clinical response and tolerance of the drug. As a general rule, **Lonapam** is given as low dose, single drug therapy in new non-therapy resistant case.

Adults: 1 mg (elderly, 0.5 mg), initially at night for 4 nights, increased according to response over 2-4 weeks to a usual maintenance dose of 4-8 mg daily in divided doses usually at night.

Child up to 1 year: Start with 0.25 mg, increased usual maintenance dose of 0.5-1 mg,

1-5 years: Start with 0.25 mg, increased to 1-3 mg,

5-12 years: Initial dose 0.5 mg, increased to 3-6 mg.

USE IN PREGNANCY & LACTATION

The use of **Lonapam** during pregnancy or lactation should be avoided (Pregnancy Category D). The drug should only be administered to pregnant woman if the potential benefits outweigh the risk of fetus. Since **Lonapam** passes into the breast milk, it must not be taken during feeding.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Lonapam should not be used in patients with a history of sensitivity to benzodiazepines, nor in patients with clinical or

biochemical evidence of significant liver disease, respiratory depression, acute pulmonary insufficiency, sleep apnoea syndrome, marked neuromuscular respiratory weakness including unstable myasthenia gravis. It may be used in patients with open angle glaucoma who are receiving appropriate therapy but is contraindicated in acute narrow angle glaucoma.

SIDE EFFECTS

Adverse effects like drowsiness, fatigue, dizziness, muscle hypotonia, co-ordination disturbances; also poor concentration, restlessness, confusion, amnesia, dependence and withdrawal; salivary or bronchial hypersecretion in infants and small children; rarely gastro-intestinal symptoms, respiratory depression, headache, paradoxical effects including aggression and anxiety, sexual dysfunction, urinary incontinence, urticaria, pruritus, reversible hair loss, skin pigmentation changes; dysarthria, and visual disturbances on long-term treatment; blood disorders reported. These effects are usually transients and generally disappear spontaneously in the course of treatment or on the reduction of dosage.

PRECAUTIONS

The dosages of **Lonapam** must be carefully adjusted to individual requirements in elderly patients, patients with pre-existing diseases of the respiratory system (e.g. chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), liver or kidney and in patients under going treatment with other centrally acting medications or anticonvulsant (antiepileptic) agents.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Concomitant administration of hepatic enzyme inducers, such as carbamazepine, phenobarbital or phenytoin may accelerate the metabolism of **Lonapam**. Concomitant intake of alcohol may affect the patient's response to **Lonapam**. **Lonapam** may be expected to have the sedative interactions associated with benzodiazepines in general.

PACKAGING

Lonapam 0.5 tablet: Box containing 3x10 tablets in blister pack. Each tablet contains clonazepam USP 0.5 mg.

Lonapam 2 tablet: Box containing 3x10 tablets in blister pack. Each tablet contains clonazepam USP 2 mg.

PHARMACEUTICAL PRECAUTION

Store below 25°C. Protect from light and moisture.

WARNING

Keep out of the reach of the children.



Manufactured by
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Kishoreganj, Bangladesh