

# Lorazepam

Names	The generic drug name is lorazepam (lor a' ze pam). The brand name is Ativan®. There may be other names for this medication.
How is it Given and What is it Used For?	Lorazepam is available as a tablet or as a liquid. This drug is used to relieve anxiety or nausea.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Lorazepam?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• are pregnant or breastfeeding</li><li>• are taking antihistamines</li><li>• have glaucoma, seizures, lung disease, heart disease, or liver disease</li></ul> <p><b>This drug may interact with other medications, increasing or decreasing their effectiveness or causing harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.</b></p>
What Are Some Possible Side Effects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drowsiness, dizziness, or weakness</li><li>• Dry mouth</li><li>• Upset stomach, changes in appetite , or diarrhea</li></ul>
When Should I Call the Doctor?	<p><b>Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have:</b> difficulty breathing; rapid, weak pulse; nausea and vomiting; shortness of breath, swelling of your face or throat (signs of severe allergic reaction called anaphylaxis)</p> <p><b>Call your doctor immediately if you have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• sign of an allergic reaction: rash, hives, or severe skin rash; dizziness or</li><li>• shuffling walk, persistent, fine tremor, or inability to sit still</li><li>• blurred vision</li></ul> <p><b>Call your doctor if these side effects are severe or do not go away:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• restlessness or excitement</li><li>• constipation</li><li>• difficult or frequent urination</li><li>• changes in sex drive or ability</li></ul>

What Else  
Should I Know  
About  
Lorazepam?

- Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed, and out of reach of children. Store it at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom). Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed. Talk to your pharmacist about the proper disposal of your medication
- Keep all appointments with your doctor and the laboratory. Your doctor will order certain lab tests to check your response to lorazepam.
- Do not let anyone else take your medication. Ask your pharmacist any questions you have about refilling your prescription.
- Lorazepam can be habit-forming. Do not take a larger dose, take it more often, or for a longer time than your doctor tells you to. Tolerance may develop with long-term or excessive use, making the drug less effective. Do not take lorazepam for more than 4 months.
- Do not stop taking this medication without talking to your doctor. Stopping the drug suddenly can worsen your condition and cause withdrawal symptoms (anxiousness, sleeplessness, and irritability). Your doctor probably will decrease your dose gradually.
- If you take several doses per day and miss a dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.
- If you are having surgery, including dental surgery, tell the doctor or dentist that you are taking lorazepam.
- You should know that this drug may make you drowsy. Do not drive a car or operate machinery until you know how this drug affects you.
- Remember that alcohol can add to the drowsiness caused by this drug.
- Tell your doctor if you use tobacco products. Cigarette smoking may decrease the effectiveness of this drug.
- If you would like more information about Lorazepam, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.