This leaflet has been written specifically about the use of this medicine in children. The information may differ from that provided by the manufacturer. Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

**Name of drug**
Clonazepam

**Brand name:** Rivotril®

**Why is it important for my child to take this medicine?**
It is important that your child takes clonazepam regularly so that they have fewer seizures.

**What is clonazepam available as?**
- **Tablets:** 2 mg (white), 0.5 mg (light brown)
- **Liquid medicine** can be ordered specially from your pharmacist but it may take up to 3 weeks to supply

**When should I give clonazepam?**
Clonazepam is usually given two or three times a day.

- **Two times a day:** This should be once in the morning and once in the evening. Ideally, these times are 10–12 hours apart, for example sometime between 7 and 8 am and between 7 and 8 pm.
- **Three times a day:** This should be first thing in the morning, early afternoon and at bedtime. Ideally, these times should be at least 4 hours apart.

Give the medicine at about the same times each day so that this becomes part of your child’s daily routine, which will help you to remember.

**How much should I give?**
Your doctor will work out the amount of clonazepam (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label.

When you first start giving clonazepam to your child, you will give them a small amount and then increase the dose bit by bit over a few days or weeks. This helps your child to get used to the medicine. Your doctor will explain what to do.

**Do not stop giving clonazepam suddenly, as your child may have more seizures.**

**Liquid medicine:** Measure out the right amount using an oral syringe or medicine spoon. You can get these from your pharmacist. Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the right amount.

**When should the medicine start working?**
It will take a few days or up to a week for clonazepam to work properly, so your child may still have seizures during this time. This is because the amount of medicine has to be increased slowly. Continue to give the medicine as you have been told to by your doctor.

**What if my child is sick (vomits)?**
- If your child is sick less than 30 minutes after having a dose of clonazepam, give them the same dose again.
- If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after having a dose of clonazepam, you **do not** need to give them another dose. Wait until the next normal dose.

**What if I forget to give it?**
If you normally give it twice a day:
- If you remember up to 4 hours after you should have given a dose, give your child the missed dose. For example, if you usually give a dose at 7 am, you can give the missed dose at any time up to 11 am. If you remember after that time, **do not** give the missed dose. Wait until it is time to give the next normal dose.

If you normally give it three times a day:
- If you miss a dose, wait until the next normal dose. do not give the missed dose.

Never give a ‘double’ dose of clonazepam.

**What if I give too much?**
If you think you may have given your child too much clonazepam, contact your doctor or NHS Direct (0845 4647 in England and Wales; 08454 24 24 24 in Scotland) or take your child to hospital.

Take the medicine container or packaging with you, even if it is empty. This will be useful to the doctor. Have the packaging with you if you telephone for advice.

**Are there any possible side-effects?**
We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they cause effects that we don’t want (side-effects).

**Side effects that you must do something about**
Clonazepam occasionally affects the blood. If your child seems to be getting more infections than usual (e.g. bad colds, chest or skin infections, stomach upsets), or they seem to bruise more easily or bleeding doesn’t stop quickly, contact your doctor straight away.

**Other side effects you need to know about**
- Your child is likely to be drowsy (sleepy) and unsteady
There may, sometimes, be other side-effects that are
not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are
concerned, contact your doctor.

Can other common medicines be given at the same
time as clonazepam?

• You can give your child medicines that contain
paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless your doctor has told
you not to.
• Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any
other medicines to your child. This includes herbal or
complementary medicines.

Epilepsy and pregnancy

• Pregnancy presents a risk to both the mother with
epilepsy and her unborn baby. If your daughter has sex,
it is essential that she uses adequate contraception to
prevent an unplanned pregnancy.
• If your daughter thinks that she may be pregnant, it
is important that she sees your family doctor as early
as possible. Your daughter should keep taking her
medicine until she sees her doctor.

Clonazepam and pregnancy

• Clonazepam may harm an unborn baby.
• The oral contraceptive pill can be used safely by women
or girls who are taking clonazepam.

Is there anything else I need to know about this
medicine?

• If your child is going to have treatment in hospital, it is
important that you tell the doctor that your child is taking
clonazepam.

General advice about medicines for seizures

Do not suddenly stop giving any of these medicines
to your child, as they may have a seizure. If you are
worried, talk to your doctor but carry on giving the
medicine to your child as usual.

If your child seems to have more seizures than usual,
contact your doctor or epilepsy nurse.

• If your doctor decides to stop a particular medicine, they
will discuss this with you. You will usually reduce the
dose bit by bit.

Do not change the dose of any drug without talking to
your doctor first.

• It is best that your child always has the same brand of
each medicine, as there may be differences between
brands. Keep a record of which medicines your child
has.
• Try to give medicines at about the same times every day,
to help you remember.
• Only give the medicine(s) to your child. Never give them
to anyone else, even if their condition appears to be the
same, as this could do harm.

If you think someone else may have taken the medicine
by accident, contact your doctor straight away.

• Make sure that you always have enough medicine.
Order a new prescription at least 2 weeks before you
will run out.
• Make sure that the medicines you have at home have
not reached the 'best before' or 'use by' date on the
packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to
dispose of.

Where I should keep this medicine?

• Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and
direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge.
• Make sure that children cannot see or reach the
medicine.
• Keep the medicine in the container it came in

Who to contact for more information

Your child’s hospital doctor, epilepsy nurse or pharmacist will
be able to give you more information about clonazepam and
other medicines used to treat epilepsy.

You can also get useful information from:

NHS Direct (England) - www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk - 0845 4647
NHS 24 (Scotland) - www.nhs24.com - 0845 24 24 24
NHS Direct Wales / Galw Iechyd Cymru
www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk - 0845 4647
NI Direct (Northern Ireland) - www.nidirect.gov.uk
Young Epilepsy
www.youngepilepsy.org.uk - Helpline: 01342 831 342
Epilepsy Society
www.epilepsysociety.org.uk - Helpline: 01494 601 400
Epilepsy Action
www.epilepsy.org.uk - Helpline: 0808 800 5050

www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk