Clonidine

PHARMACY INFO SHEET

WHAT IT DOES:

This medication is used to control high blood pressure. Clonidine is also used to treat the discomfort associated with peripheral neuropathy and restless legs syndrome. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

HOW IT WORKS:

This medication works in the brain where it causes nerve impulses to relax blood vessels in the body so that blood can flow more freely. Blood pressure also reduces as a result.

HOW TO TAKE IT:

Clonidine should be taken regularly even if you feel well. Do not take more or less of this drug or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor. Do not suddenly stop this medication without your doctor's advice. If you feel dizzy when trying to sit or stand, sit or lie for a few minutes, then try slowly again.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU MISS A DOSE:

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If the next regularly scheduled dose is due within the following 6 hours of taking the missed dose, omit this next dose and then resume your original dosing schedule. DO NOT DOUBLE DOSE TO MAKE UP FOR A MISSED ONE.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:

Side effects from clonidine such as dry mouth, dry eyes, drowsiness, dizziness and constipation are the most common, but should go away after a few weeks or months of use. Tell your doctor if you experience persistent tiredness, headache, loss of appetite, nervousness, decreased sexual ability or upset stomach. You should call your doctor immediately if you experience fainting, irregular heartbeat or swollen ankles or feet.

RELATION TO DIET:

Clonidine can be taken with or without food. Your doctor or dietitian may suggest a low-salt diet. Follow these directions carefully. Do not take over the counter medications unless discussed with your doctor or pharmacist (e.g. cough and cold preparations). Avoid alcohol while you are taking this medication.

Use the space below to write down why you are taking this medication.

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