

Tourette Syndrome, ADHD, Panic & Anxiety Disorders

Medication Name

- **Clonidine**

Usage

This medication is used alone or with other medications to treat high blood pressure (hypertension). Lowering high blood pressure helps prevent strokes, heart attacks, and kidney problems. Clonidine belongs to a class of drugs (central alpha agonists) that act in the brain to lower blood pressure. It works by relaxing blood vessels so blood can flow more easily.

This section contains uses of this drug that are not listed in the approved professional labeling for the drug.

This drug may also be used to treat painful menstrual periods, **attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)**, and withdrawal symptoms from dependence on narcotics, alcohol, or nicotine (smoking).

Clonidine - Overview

Clonidine (Catapres) belongs to a class of medications known as antihypertensives. It is used for the management of hypertension (high blood pressure). While not widely documented, it is also being used to control tics in children with Tourette's Syndrome and can be used in children for a condition known as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and pediatric panic and anxiety disorders.

Clonidine belongs to a class of drugs (central alpha agonists) that act in the brain to lower blood pressure. It works by relaxing blood vessels so blood can flow more easily.

Please see your School Nurse with any questions or concerns

Side Effects to Watch for:

- Dizziness, lightheadedness, drowsiness, fatigue, dry mouth, or constipation may occur as your body adjusts to the medication
- Unlikely but serious side effects occur: fast/slow/irregular heartbeat, trouble breathing, chest pain, mental/mood changes (e.g., depression), cold hands/feet., severe fatigue or drowsiness, tremors.
- To relieve dry mouth, suck on (sugarless) hard candy or ice chips, chew (sugarless) gum, drink water, or use a saliva substitute.
- Most adverse effects are mild and tend to diminish with continued therapy.

