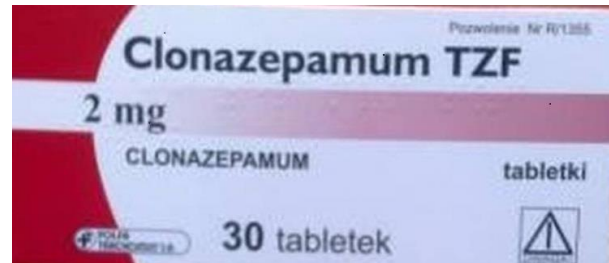


## The effects of AEDs

### Clonazepam

**Clonazepam is also known as Epiril Klonopin and Rivotril.**

*As well as epilepsy Clonazepam is also given for; anxiety disorders, migraines, initial treatment of mania, HPPD – hallucinogen Persisting Perception Disorder, hyperkplexia, restless legs syndrome, rapid eye movement behaving disorders, alcohol withdrawal symptom Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.*



Clonazepam belongs to the family of benzodiazepine medication. An increased risk of congenital malformations associated with the use of benzodiazepine drugs. It is also believed that there are non-teratogenic risks associated with the use of benzodiazepines. As well as experiencing withdrawal symptoms. There have also been reports of neonatal flaccidity (caused by weakened muscle tone), respiratory and feeding difficulties and hypothermia.

It has been noted that there is a higher likelihood of a child being affected if the mother takes a higher dosages of clonazepam. The effects upon the nervous system of the fetus is dose dependant, the greater the dosage the more likelihood of conditions such as autism, learning difficulties, impaired cognition etc.

Clonazepam should only be given during pregnancy when there are no alternatives and benefit outweighs risk.

Clonazepam has been assigned to pregnancy category D by the FDA. This means that there is positive evidence of human fetal risk based on adverse reaction data from investigational or marketing experience or studies in humans, but potential benefits may warrant use of the drug in pregnant women despite potential risks.

### **Postpartum period**

#### **Clonazepam Breastfeeding Warnings**

Clonazepam is excreted into human milk in small amounts. No adverse effects have been reported in nursing infants, but experience is quite limited.

In the case of Clonazepam:

you should only take this medicine while breast-feeding if your doctor thinks you need it

Before you have your baby you should discuss breast-feeding with your doctor or midwife. They will help you decide what is best for you and your baby based on the benefits and risks associated with this medicine. You should only breast-feed your baby while taking this medicine on the advice of your doctor or midwife.

**The NHS Choices website give the following guidance with regards to family planning and pregnancy:**

Most medicines, in some way, can affect the development of a baby in the womb. The effect on the baby differs between medicines and also depends on the stage of pregnancy that you have reached when you take the medicine.

In the case of Clonazepam:

if you take this medicine during your pregnancy, your baby may have some problems after birth. Also, if you repeatedly take this medicine during the late stages of pregnancy, your baby may come to be physically dependent on Clonazepam. This may lead to your baby having withdrawal symptoms from Clonazepam after birth you should only take this medicine during pregnancy if your doctor thinks that you need it

You should discuss your personal circumstances with your doctor if you are pregnant or want to become pregnant. This is so that together you can make a decision about what treatment you may need during your pregnancy.

You should discuss whether there are any other medicines which you could take during pregnancy which would treat your condition.

***This information is for the purpose to help you make informed choices. Please contact your health practitioner should you have any concerns. Do not stop taking your medication without your doctor's advice.***