

Catapres/Kapvay (clonidine IR/ER)



What is it usually prescribed for?

ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder) and other conditions.



How does it work?

Catapres/Kapvay helps improve attention, concentration, and hyperactivity by changing the release of chemicals in the brain.

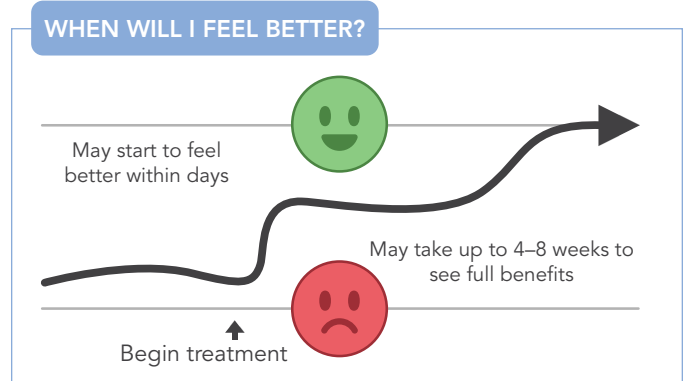


What should I expect?

It may take a few weeks for you to feel the full benefits of taking this medicine. Some symptoms may improve within days of the first dose, but in some cases the full benefits of this medicine may take up to 4–8 weeks once the right dose is determined.

Your healthcare professional will start with a low dose that is slowly increased to find the best dose that works for you. Tell your healthcare professional how it's working for you and if you have any side effects so the dose can be changed if needed.

Your healthcare professional may check your blood pressure before starting treatment and during treatment



occasionally because Catapres/Kapvay affects blood pressure.

Take Catapres/Kapvay exactly as prescribed to get the full benefit of this medicine.



Will I have side effects?

You may or may not have side effects when taking Catapres/Kapvay. Most side effects occur right away but go away with time. The chance of side effects increases with larger doses.

What are common side effects and what can I do to feel better?

If your side effects are mild, talk to your healthcare professional about them at your next appointment.

	Drink plenty of water	Drink less alcohol	Eat small meals more often	Healthcare professional suggestion
Dry mouth	X	X		
Trouble sleeping	X	X		
Feeling dizzy	X	X		
Feeling drowsy	X	X		
Constipation	X			
Feeling less hungry	X		X	

Note: This is not a complete list of side effects; other side effects are possible. Before starting Catapres/Kapvay, tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you are taking to avoid unexpected side effects.



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YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

In 2019, Catapres/Kapvay was prescribed nearly 11.4 million times in the United States.

⊗ What should I avoid?

Don't start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs, or herbal remedies without talking to your healthcare professional first. There are many interactions with medicines that may increase your chance of side effects.

Do not suddenly stop taking Catapres/Kapvay unless your healthcare professional has told you to, because it can cause a rapid rise in blood pressure, headache, and nervousness.

Use less alcohol and recreational drugs. They may decrease the benefits of Catapres/Kapvay and increase the chance of side effects.

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

- ✔ It may take up to a few weeks for you to feel the full benefits of taking this medicine
- ✔ Tell your healthcare professional about any troubling side effects so that you can work together to address them
- ✔ Do not suddenly stop taking this medicine unless told to do so by your healthcare professional
- ✔ Don't start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs, or herbal remedies without talking to your healthcare professional
- ✔ Get medical care right away if you have serious side effects



When should I call a healthcare professional right away or visit the emergency room?

If you have any **serious** side effects. Here are some examples of serious side effects:

- Severe chest pain, shortness of breath, irregular heartbeats
- A very slow heart rate
- A light-headed feeling like you might pass out

If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center (800-222-1222) or get medical care right away.



Where can I get more help?

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – nami.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line – Text "HELLO" to 741741



Notes and questions for my next appointment

