Chloral Hydrate

Brand Names: Canada
Chloral Hydrate-Odan; PMS-Chloral Hydrate

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat sleep problems.
- It is used to calm you before care.
- It is used to treat alcohol withdrawal.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you have an allergy to chloral hydrate or any other part of this drug.
- If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- If you have any of these health problems: Kidney disease, liver disease, esophagus problems, or stomach or bowel
problems like swelling, ulcers, or irritation.

- If you have heart problems.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

**What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.

- This drug may be habit-forming with long-term use.

- When sleep drugs are used nightly for more than a few weeks, they may not work as well to help sleep problems. This is known as tolerance. Only use sleep drugs for a short time. If sleep problems last, call the doctor.

- If you have been taking this drug on a regular basis and you stop it all of a sudden, you may have signs of withdrawal. Do not stop taking this drug all of a sudden without calling your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any bad effects.
• Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert after you take this drug. You may still feel sleepy the day after you take this drug. Avoid these tasks or actions until you feel fully awake.

• To lower the chance of feeling dizzy or passing out, rise slowly if you have been sitting or lying down. Be careful going up and down stairs.

• Avoid alcohol while taking this drug. Do not take this drug if you drank alcohol that evening or before bed.

• Talk with your doctor before you use other drugs and natural products that slow your actions.

• This drug may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take this drug.

• If you are taking warfarin, talk with your doctor. You may need to have your blood work checked more closely while you are taking it with this drug.

• If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.

• Use with care in children. Talk with the doctor.

• Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this drug while you are pregnant.

• Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

**What are some side effects that I need to call my**
**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Very bad belly pain.
- Change in balance.
- Feeling confused.
- Change in how you act.
- Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there).
- Fever or chills.
- Sore throat.
- Very bad dizziness or passing out.
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- This drug may cause very bad and sometimes deadly breathing problems. Call your doctor right away if you have slow, shallow, or trouble breathing.

Some people have done certain tasks or actions while they...
were not fully awake like driving, making and eating food, and having sex. Most of the time, people do not remember doing these things. Tell your doctor if this happens to you.

**What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Dizziness.
- Feeling sleepy the next day.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Gas.
- Diarrhea.
- Bad taste in your mouth.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

**How is this drug best taken?**

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

**All products:**
• Take with or without food.
• If you are using this drug to help you sleep, take it 15 to 30 minutes before bedtime.

Capsule:
• Take with a full glass of water.
• Swallow capsule whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.

Liquid:
• Mix the liquid with water, fruit juice, or ginger ale to make it taste better.
• Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.

For sleep:
• Do not take this drug unless you can get a full night’s sleep (at least 7 to 8 hours) before you need to be active again.

What do I do if I miss a dose?
For sleep:
• If you take this drug on a regular basis, take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
• If you will not be able to get a full night’s sleep (at least 7 hours) after taking the missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
• Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

• Many times this drug is taken on an as needed basis. Do not take more often than told by the doctor.

**Before surgery:**

• Call your doctor to find out what to do.

**For other reasons:**

• Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.

• If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.

• Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

**How do I store and/or throw out this drug?**

• Store at room temperature. Do not freeze.

• Protect from light.

• Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

• Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.

• Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

**General drug facts**
• If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.

• Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else’s drugs.

• Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your doctor.

• Talk with the doctor before starting any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.

• Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

• If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer
This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This
information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

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If you have any questions or concerns, talk with a member of your healthcare team. You can reach them Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at _______________________. After 5:00 PM, during the weekend, and on holidays, please call______________________. If there’s no number listed, or you’re not sure, call 212-639-2000.

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