PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Cyclobenzaprine

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US

Amrix; Fexmid; Tonmya

Brand Names: Canada

AG-Cyclobenzaprine; APO-Cyclobenzaprine; Auro-Cyclobenzaprine; Flexeril [DSC]; JAMP-Cyclobenzaprine; PMS-Cyclobenzaprine; RIVA-Cyclobenzaprine; TEVA-Cyclobenzaprine

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to relax muscles.
- It is used to treat fibromyalgia.

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

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor

about the allergy and what signs you had.

- If you have any of these health problems: Heart block or other heartbeat that is not normal, heart failure (weak heart), liver disease, or an overactive thyroid gland.
- If you have had a recent heart attack.
- If you have liver disease.
- If you have taken certain drugs for depression or Parkinson's disease in the last 14 days. This includes isocarboxazid, phenelzine, tranylcypromine, selegiline, or rasagiline. Very high blood pressure may happen.
- If you are taking any of these drugs: Linezolid or methylene blue.

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?

All products:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert until you see how this drug affects you.
- Be careful in hot weather or while being active. Drink lots of fluids to stop fluid loss.
- Talk with your doctor before you use alcohol, marijuana or other forms of cannabis, or prescription or OTC drugs that may slow your actions.
- Do not take this drug for longer than you were told by your doctor.
- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. A pregnancy test may be done before you start this drug to show that you are NOT pregnant.
- If you may become pregnant, use birth control while taking this drug and for 2 weeks after the last dose unless you have been told otherwise. Be sure you know how long to use birth control. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.

- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. This drug passes into breast milk and may harm your baby.

Tablets and under the tongue (sublingual) tablets:

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

Extended-release capsules:

- Do not take this drug if you are 65 or older. Talk with your doctor.

If using to relax muscles:

- This drug is used with rest, PT (physical therapy), pain drugs, and other therapies.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

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.

- Fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Chest pain or pressure.
- Weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on one side of the face, or blurred eyesight.
- Seizures.
- Trouble passing urine.
- A severe and sometimes deadly problem called serotonin syndrome may happen if you take this drug with certain other drugs. Call your doctor right away if you have agitation; change in balance; confusion; hallucinations; fever; fast or abnormal heartbeat; flushing; muscle twitching or stiffness; seizures; shivering or shaking; sweating a lot; severe diarrhea, upset stomach, or throwing up; or severe headache.

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:

All products:

- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Dry mouth.

Tablets and extended-release capsules:

- Constipation.
- Upset stomach.

Under the tongue (sublingual) tablet:

- Mouth numbness, tingling, pain, irritation, sores, swelling, or tongue discomfort have happened with this drug. These usually happened a few minutes after taking this drug. Most went away within 60 minutes. Take a few sips of water before your dose to lower the chance of numbness. Call your doctor if these effects are severe or cover a large area of your mouth. Get medical help right away if any of these cause trouble with eating, drinking, breathing, or swallowing.

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.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1- 800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

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 except sublingual tablets:

- Take with or without food.

Extended-release capsules:

- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- Swallow whole. Do not chew or crush.
- If you cannot swallow this drug whole, you may sprinkle the contents on applesauce. If you do this, swallow the mixture right away without chewing.
- Rinse mouth to make sure all contents have been swallowed.
- Throw away any part of opened capsule left over after the dose is given.

Under the tongue (sublingual) tablet:

- Take this drug at bedtime.
- Take at the same time every night.

- Use this drug after brushing teeth unless your doctor tells you otherwise.
- Drink a few sips of water before using this drug.
- Place tablet under the tongue and let dissolve.
- Do not swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.
- Do not talk for at least 5 minutes after taking this drug.
- Do not eat or drink for at least 15 minutes after using this drug.
- It is best to avoid any hot, cold, or acidic drinks until the morning.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

Tablets:

- If you take this drug on a regular basis, 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.
- Many times this drug is taken on an as needed basis. Do not take more often than told by the doctor.

Extended-release capsules:

- 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.

Under the tongue (sublingual) tablet:

- Skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take a missed dose during the day.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

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

All products:

- Store at room temperature 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.

Under the tongue (sublingual) tablet:

- Store in the original container with the lid tightly closed. The bottle has a desiccant packet in it to keep the drug dry, and also a polyester coil. Do not eat these. Keep the desiccant in the bottle. Throw away the polyester coil.

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.
- 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.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. 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 generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms.

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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