



Lorazepam (Ativan[®])

Drug Name: Ativan[®]

Generic Name: lorazepam

Purpose: Ativan is used to treat anxiety. It may also be used to prevent nausea and vomiting due to chemotherapy, and for the treatment of insomnia (trouble sleeping). This medication belongs to a family of medications called benzodiazepines. These medications act on the brain and nerves to cause a calming effect. Ativan works by enhancing the effects of a chemical called GABA, which is found naturally in the body.

Form:

- Pill
- Intravenous (IV)

How to take:

- Take Ativan as directed by your doctor. Your doctor will determine your dose and schedule.
- Ativan may be given intravenously (into a vein) but only in a healthcare facility.
- Ativan may be given orally (by mouth) in pill form.
- You can take Ativan with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, just skip it. DO NOT take a double dose.
- DO NOT drink alcohol while taking Ativan.
- DO NOT drive or operate machinery while taking Ativan.
- Avoid cold and allergy medications while taking Ativan. The combination may cause you to be extremely drowsy.
- Tell your doctor about any side effects you experience.

Possible Side Effects:

- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Increased depression (tell your doctor immediately)