

Kapvay

(Clonidine hydrochloride)

[Full Prescribing Information](#)

[DailyMed Drug Information](#)

Forms/Strengths

- **Tablets:** 0.1 mg, 0.2 mg, 0.3 mg

Dosing

- **Age:** ≥ 6 y/o
- **Onset:**
- **Duration:** 12-24 hours
- **Considerations:** Monitor for hypotension, bradycardia, and sedation. Titrate slowly.
- **Initial Dose:** 0.1 mg orally once daily at bedtime
- **Titration:** Increase by 0.1 mg weekly
- **Max Dose:** 0.4 mg once daily

Quick Facts

- Selective alpha-2 adrenergic receptor agonist; reduces sympathetic outflow
- Improves prefrontal cortex regulation; decreases hyperactivity and impulsivity
- Extended-release formulation for adjunctive ADHD management; may improve sleep
- Less effective for inattention compared to stimulants
- Common side effects: drowsiness, sedation, dry mouth, hypotension

Indications

- **ADHD** (ICD-10: F90.0)

Off-Label Uses

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How to Take

- Take **twice daily**, with doses **about 12 hours apart**.
- **Swallow the tablet whole**; do not crush, chew, or split.
- Can be taken **with or without food**, but be consistent with food intake for stable absorption.
- If a **dose is missed**, take it as soon as possible unless it is close to the next dose—do not double up.
- **Do not abruptly stop** taking; tapering may be required to prevent **rebound hypertension**.

Side Effects

- Common: Somnolence, fatigue, headache, abdominal pain, increased heart rate, nasal congestion, irritability, throat pain, rash.
- Serious: Hypotension, bradycardia, cardiac conduction abnormalities.

Monitoring / Labs

- Monitor heart rate and blood pressure prior to initiation, following dose increases, and periodically during therapy.

Education

- **When to Call the Doctor:**
 - Severe **dizziness, fainting, or low blood pressure**.
 - Slow or irregular heart rate.
 - Excessive drowsiness or difficulty waking.
 - Mood changes, depression, or unusual behavior.
 - Severe headache, blurred vision, or confusion (**possible hypertensive rebound if stopped abruptly**).

- **Safety Tips:**
 - **Monitor blood pressure and heart rate** regularly.
 - Avoid **alcohol and sedatives**, which may enhance drowsiness.
 - Rise slowly from sitting or lying positions to prevent dizziness.
 - Use caution when driving or operating heavy machinery due to possible sedation.
 - **Taper gradually** when discontinuing to avoid withdrawal symptoms.
 - **Parent Tips for Pediatric Patients:**
 - May cause **daytime drowsiness**; consider giving the **larger dose at bedtime** if drowsiness is problematic.
 - Monitor for **irritability, mood swings, or behavioral changes**.
 - Encourage **hydration and balanced nutrition** to minimize side effects.
 - Ensure children do not engage in **high-risk activities (e.g., swimming, biking) if excessively drowsy**.
 - Store in **child-proof packaging** to prevent accidental overdose.
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Additional Information

- **Contraindications:**
 - **Hypersensitivity** to clonidine or formulation components.
 - Use with caution in patients with **severe heart disease, bradycardia, or hypotension**.
 - **Pregnancy:**
 - **Category C**; use only if benefits outweigh risks.
 - May cause **neonatal withdrawal symptoms**.
 - **Lactation:**
 - **Excreted in breast milk**; use with caution due to potential effects on infant blood pressure.
 - **Drug Interactions:**
 - **CNS depressants** (e.g., alcohol, benzodiazepines) may increase sedation.
 - **Beta-blockers** may enhance bradycardia; caution when using together.
 - **Stimulants (e.g., amphetamines)** may counteract Kapvay's effects.
 - **Antihypertensive medications** may lead to excessive blood pressure lowering.
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