

Administer:

- **Rapid-disintegrating tabs** by placing on tongue, to be swallowed after disintegrated with/without water
- Use within 6 mo of opening pouch and immediately after opening blister pack
- On empty stomach daily

Ext Rel Tab

- Do not break, crush, or chew

SIDE EFFECTS

CNS: Sedation (more common with increased doses), headache, fatigue, restlessness

EENT: Dry mouth

PHARMACOKINETICS

Onset 1-3 hr, peak 8-12 hr, duration 24 hr, metabolized in liver to active metabolites, excreted in urine, active metabolite desloratadine half-life 20 hr

INTERACTIONS

Increase: CNS depressant effects—alcohol, antidepressants, other antihistamines, sedative/hypnotics, MAOIs

Increase: loratadine level—cimetidine, ketoconazole, macrolides (clarithromycin, erythromycin)

Drug/Herb

Increase: CNS depression—chamomile, kava, valerian

Drug/Lab Test

False negative: skin allergy tests (discontinue antihistamine 3 days before testing)

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS**Assess:**

- **Allergy:** hives, rash, rhinitis; monitor respiratory status
- **Beers:** avoid in older men; may decrease urinary flow and cause urinary retention
- **Pregnancy/breastfeeding:** use only if clearly needed; cautious use in breastfeeding

Evaluate:

- Therapeutic response: absence of running or congested nose, other allergy symptoms

Teach patient/family:

- To avoid driving, other hazardous activities if drowsiness occurs
- To avoid use of other CNS depressants

⚠ HIGH ALERT**LORazepam (Rx)**

(lor-a'ze-pam)

Ativan

Func. class.: Sedative, hypnotic; antianxiety

Chem. class.: Benzodiazepine, short acting

Controlled Substance Schedule IV**Do not confuse:**

LORazepam/ALPRAZolam/clonazepam

ACTION: Potentiates the actions of GABA, especially in the limbic system and the reticular formation

USES: Anxiety, irritability with psychiatric or organic disorders, preoperatively; insomnia; adjunct for endoscopic procedures, status epilepticus, insomnia

Unlabeled uses: Antiemetic before chemotherapy, rectal use, alcohol withdrawal, seizure prophylaxis, agitation, insomnia, sedation maintenance

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Pregnancy, breastfeeding, hypersensitivity to benzodiazepines, benzyl alcohol; closed-angle glaucoma, psychosis, history of drug abuse, COPD, sleep apnea

Precautions: Children <12 yr, geriatric patients, debilitated patients, renal/hepatic disease, addiction, suicidal ideation, abrupt discontinuation

Black Box Warning: Coadministration with other CNS depressants