

HALCION: INFORMATION & COMMON QUESTIONS

Halcion (triazolam) belongs to a class of drugs called sedative-hypnotics, which acts on your brain to produce a calming effect.

If you are prescribed Halcion for your dental visit(s), it is important to know a few things:

- You will need to arrive 1 hour prior to your scheduled appointment and take your medication in office.
- You will need to sign a Halcion consent form and Treatment consent form, and take care of any financial arrangements prior to taking your medication.
- You must have someone drive you home, and stay with (watch over) you for 3 hours following your dental appointment. For safety reasons, you should not drive or operate machinery for the remainder of the day.

What should I tell my health care provider before I take this medicine?

They need to know if you have any of these conditions:

- an alcohol or drug abuse problem
- bipolar disorder, depression, psychosis or other mental health condition
- kidney or liver disease, lung or breathing disease
- unusual/allergic reaction to triazolam, other benzodiazepines, foods, dyes, or preservatives
- if you are pregnant, trying to get pregnant, or breast feeding

What may interact with this medicine?

Halcion should not be taken with any of the following:

- medicines for fungal infections like itraconazole, ketoconazole, or nefazodone.
- some medicines for HIV infection or AIDS

Halcion may also interact with the following medications:

- cimetidine, cyclosporine, ergotamine, isoniazid, ranitidine, female hormones, including birth control pills, prescription pain medicines
- grapefruit juice
- medicines for depression, mental problems or psychiatric disturbances
- some antibiotics like clarithromycin, erythromycin, troleandomycin
- some medicines for colds, hay fever or other allergies
- some medicines for high blood pressure or heart problems like amiodarone, diltiazem, nicardipine, nifedipine, verapamil
- some medicines for seizures like carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, and primidone

POST-OPERATIVE CARE INFORMATION

What are the possible side effects of SEDATIVE-HYPNOTICS?

Serious side effects of SEDATIVE-HYPNOTICS include:

- getting out of bed while not being fully awake and doing an activity that you do not know you are doing.
- abnormal thoughts and behavior. Symptoms include more outgoing or aggressive behavior than normal, confusion, agitation, hallucinations, worsening of depression, and suicidal thoughts or actions.
- memory loss, including "traveler's amnesia"
- anxiety
- severe allergic reactions. Symptoms include swelling of the tongue or throat, trouble breathing, and nausea and vomiting. Get emergency medical help if you experience these symptoms after taking Halcion

Instructions for caregiver of patient receiving dental treatment under sedation

For the first three hours following appointment:

- Always assist / support patient as they attempt to walk or stand up.
- Every 15 – 20 minutes, interact with the patient – ask patient how he/she is doing. Wake patient if necessary so that you can interact with them. This periodic stimulation is to ensure that the patient's breathing does not become too shallow, and to gauge his/her recovery from the effects of the medication.
- Look for signs of depressed or shallow breathing, or non-responsiveness when you attempt to interact with the patient. If the patient is non-responsive to stimulation, contact emergency medical services immediately.
- Do not administer pain medication during this period. Pain medication reinforces/heightens the effects of Halcion. Please make sure the patient is alert prior to administering the first dose of pain medication.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call our office.