



GUANFACINE - INFORMED CONSENT FOR MEDICATION

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| <u>Medication Category:</u> anti-hypertensive, non-stimulant treatment for ADHD | <u>Medications in this Category:</u> guanfacine (Tenex, Intuniv) |
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Anticipated dosage range: _____

About Your Medicine: This medication is used in the treatment of high blood pressure. Guanfacine is sometimes used in the treatment of tic disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and anxiety disorders.

Side Effects: Every medication is capable of producing side effects. Many people who take guanfacine experience no, or minor side effects. The frequency and severity of side effects depend on many factors including dose, duration of therapy and individual susceptibility.

Possible side effects include:

More common: Rash, itching, nausea, vomiting diarrhea, constipation (common), low blood pressure, decreased heart rate, headache, insomnia, drowsiness, dizziness, impotence, and fatigue.

Less Common: Confusion, depression, eye irritation, and weakness.

Precautions: If medication is stopped abruptly you may experience anxiety, chest pain, arrhythmias, excess salivation, sleep disturbance, and nervousness. Tell your doctor your medical history, especially of: heart or circulatory problems, kidney or liver disease, any allergies. Limit your intake of alcoholic beverages while taking this medication. Alcohol can lead to excessive drowsiness, dizziness or fainting. Also, avoid hot showers, saunas and prolonged exercise since excessive heat can intensify dizziness. Caution is advised when performing tasks requiring alertness (e.g., driving), since this drug may cause drowsiness. To minimize dizziness and lightheadedness when rising from a seated or lying position, get up slowly before having surgery, including dental surgery; tell the doctor or dentist in charge about your blood pressure medications. Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to the side effects of the drug. This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. It is not known if guanfacine passes into breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

Drug Interactions: Tell your doctor of all prescription and nonprescription drugs you may use, including: barbiturates, tranquilizers, medications for depression or allergies, narcotic pain medication, other drugs that make you drowsy (such as certain antihistamines and anti-seizure drugs). Do not take any medication for coughs, colds or allergies without first checking with your doctor or pharmacist. Some of these products contain ingredients that can increase blood

pressure or cause drowsiness (e.g., antihistamines such as diphenhydramine). Do not start or stop any medicine without doctor or pharmacist approval.

1. Use with carteolol can increase the antihypertensive effect.
2. Use with sedatives, antidepressants, or tranquilizers can increase the depressant effects of both drugs.
3. Use with clozapine can result in a toxic effect on the central nervous system.
4. Use with estrogens can decrease the antihypertensive effects of guanfacine.
5. Use with fluoxetine can increase the depressant effects of both drugs.
6. Use with leucovorin can cause adverse effects.
7. Use with lisinopril can increase the antihypertensive effect.
8. Use with nifedipine or nimodipine can result in a dangerous blood pressure drop.
9. Use with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (e.g. ibuprofen) can decrease the antihypertensive effects of guanfacine.

By my signature below, I give consent for the above-named medication to be administered and for a change of medication within this medication category. My signature also indicates that I am aware of, have read and discussed the reasons for the use of this medication, and its potential risks and benefits.

Client Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____