What is this medicine?

CHLORAL HYDRATE (klor al HI drate) is used for the short- term treatment of insomnia. It may also be used to decrease anxiety or make you sleep before a procedure or test and may be used with painkillers to reduce pain and anxiety after surgery.

This medicine may be used for other purposes; ask your health care provider or pharmacist if you have questions.

How should I use this medicine?

Take this medicine by mouth. Follow the directions on the prescription label. Shake well before using. Use a specially marked spoon or dropper to measure each dose. Ask your pharmacist if you do not have one. Household spoons are not accurate. Take your medicine at regular intervals. Mix the measured dose in half a glass of water, juice, or ginger ale to improve the taste. Do not take your medicine more often than directed. If you have been taking this medicine regularly for some time, do not suddenly stop taking it. You must gradually reduce the dose or you may get severe side effects. Ask your doctor or health care professional for advice.

Talk to your pediatrician regarding the use of this medicine in children. While this medicine may be prescribed for children for selected conditions, precautions do apply.

Overdosage: If you think you have taken too much of this medicine contact a poison control center or emergency room at once.

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

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

- History of a drug or alcohol abuse problem
- Heart disease
- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Mental depression
- Porphyria
- Stomach or intestinal disease or digestive problems
- An unusual or allergic reaction to chloral hydrate, other medicines, foods, dyes, or preservatives
- Pregnant or trying to get pregnant
- Breast-feeding

What may interact with this medicine?

Do not take this medicine with any of the following medications:

- Disulfiram

This medicine may also interact with the following medications:

- Alcohol
- Barbiturate medicines for inducing sleep or treating seizures
- Furosemide
- Medicines for anxiety or sleeping problems, such as diazepam or temazepam
- Medicines for hay fever and other allergies
- Medicines for pain
- Warfarin

This list may not describe all possible interactions. Give your health care provider a list of all the medicines, herbs, non-prescription drugs, or dietary supplements you use. Also tell them if you smoke, drink alcohol, or use illegal drugs. Some items may interact with your medicine.

What side effects may I notice

NOTE: This sheet is a summary. It may not cover all possible information. If you have questions about this medicine talk to your doctor, pharmacist, or health care provider.
from receiving this medicine?

Side effects that you should report to your doctor or health care professional as soon as possible:

- Allergic reactions like skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips, or tongue
- Confusion
- Fever, chills, or sore throat
- Hallucinations, nightmares
- Staggering, tremors
- Unusually weak or tired

Side effects that usually do not require medical attention (report to your doctor or health care professional if they continue or are bothersome):

- Diarrhea
- Dizziness, drowsiness, lightheadedness, or 'hangover'
- Nausea, vomiting
- Stomach upset

This list may not describe all possible side effects. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I watch for while using this medicine?

Visit your doctor or health care professional for regular checks on your progress.

You may get drowsy or dizzy. Do not drive, use machinery, or do anything that needs mental alertness until you know how this medicine affects you. Do not stand or sit up quickly, especially if you are an older patient. This reduces the risk of dizzy or fainting spells. Alcohol may interfere with the effect of this medicine. Avoid alcoholic drinks.

Where should I keep my medicine?

Keep out of the reach of children. This medicine can be abused. Keep your medicine in a safe place to protect it from theft. Do not share this medicine with anyone. Selling or giving away this medicine is dangerous and against the law.

Store at room temperature between 15 and 30 degrees C (59 and 86 degrees F). Do not freeze. Protect from light. Throw away any unused medicine after the expiration date.

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