

BENZODIAZAPINE Side Effects:

Medications in this category: lorazepam (Ativan), clonazepam (Klonopin), diazepam (Valium), alprazolam (Xanax), temazepam (Restoril)

Most common: sleepiness, dizziness, weakness, lack of muscle control (ataxia), addiction

Serious but rare: memory problems, increased fall risk, paradoxical response (irritability, agitation); respiratory depression (avoid in patients with sleep apnea).

Pregnancy: Possible increased incidence of cleft lip or palate; floppy infant syndrome; neonatal withdrawal syndrome. Abrupt discontinuation during pregnancy causes withdrawal that can be harmful to both mother and fetus.

This is a simplified list of side effects focusing on what is common or severe because complete lists of more rare and less serious side effects are often overwhelming. If desired, complete lists of potential side effects can be found on reputable web sites like Drugs.com.