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## Ativan (General Information)

### What is Ativan?

- Ativan is a brand name of the drug Lorazepam
- It is a short-term *anxiety relief* medication prescribed to patients that are nervous about dental treatment.

### Why do we prescribe Ativan?

We hope that our patients have the best experience possible when they visit our dental practice. Consequently, we want our patients to be relaxed during any extended procedures that they might be having. Ativan helps patients to relax. However, it does not completely sedate patients. Our doctors prefer that patients are able to respond to instructions during the appointment and the use of Ativan allows that, while reducing patient anxiety.

### What are the effects of Ativan?

- General relaxation
- Muscle relaxation
- Sleepiness
- Unsteadiness (while walking or on one's feet)
- Reduced Inhibition
- Amnesia- due to the effects of Ativan, some patients have reported having limited memory of the procedures that occurred while in our office. Patients may also have limited recall of events that take place during the several hours after their procedure, while the Ativan is leaving their system.

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**Be Aware:**

- DO NOT take Ativan if you are pregnant, could be pregnant, or nursing
- DO NOT take Ativan if you are allergic to the following medications:
  - Lorazepam
  - Benzodiazepine drugs- such as:
    - Alprazolam (Xanax)
    - Chlordiazepoxide (Librium)
    - Clorazepate (Tranxene)
    - Diazepam (Valium)
    - Oxazepam (Serax)
- DO NOT drink alcohol while using Ativan
- DO NOT take Ativan if you have acute narrow angle glaucoma
- DO NOT take Ativan if you have severe respiratory insufficiency
- DO NOT take Ativan if you have Kidney or Liver disease

**You MUST have a driver if you will be using Ativan:**

Due to the effects of Ativan, each patient using this medication MUST have someone drive them to and from their appointment.

Our office accepts no liability for any damages or losses suffered as a result of patient negligence while driving on this medication.

**Patients using Ativan should be supervised**

Due to the effects of Ativan, some patients require supervision for several hours after their appointment. It is recommended then that someone be present with a patient who has taken Ativan for a period of 6-8 hours from the time of the pre-appointment dose.

**Is Ativan the only medication I will be receiving prior to my procedure?**

No. Our doctors will also administer a local anesthetic designed to prevent you from feeling any pain during your appointment. Ativan is only meant to put you at ease while an extended procedure is being performed.