

Clonidine is a medication that is commonly used to treat tic disorders such as Tourette's syndrome. It works by decreasing the release of norepinephrine, which is a neurotransmitter that is involved in the regulation of attention and mood.

Clonidine is typically used as an alternative to antipsychotic medications, which can have significant side effects, especially in children. It may also be used in combination with other medications to manage tic symptoms.

The most common side effects of clonidine are drowsiness, dry mouth, and dizziness. Some people may also experience constipation, headache, or difficulty sleeping. These side effects are generally mild and go away on their own as the body adjusts to the medication.

In some cases, clonidine can also cause more serious side effects, such as low blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, or depression. It is important to speak with your GP or specialist if any of these symptoms occur.

When taking clonidine for tic disorders, regular monitoring is important to ensure that the medication is working effectively and that there are no significant side effects. The dosage may need to be adjusted over time, and blood pressure and heart rate should be monitored.

In summary, clonidine is a medication that is commonly used to treat tic disorders such as Tourette's syndrome. It works by decreasing the release of norepinephrine, and may be used as an alternative to antipsychotic medications. Common side effects include drowsiness, dry mouth, and dizziness, and regular monitoring is important to ensure safety and effectiveness.