

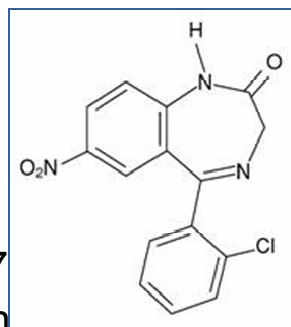


## Clonazepam

→relieve panic attacks

IUPAC Name:

5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,3-dihydro-7-nitro-2H-1,4-benzodiazepin-2-one

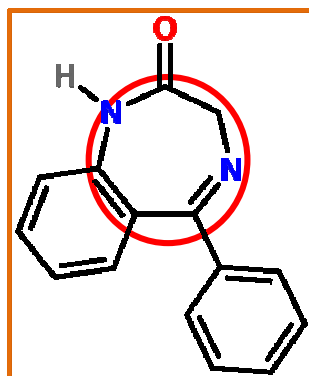


Molecular weight: 315.72

Appearance: light yellow crystalline powder

## lead compound discovery

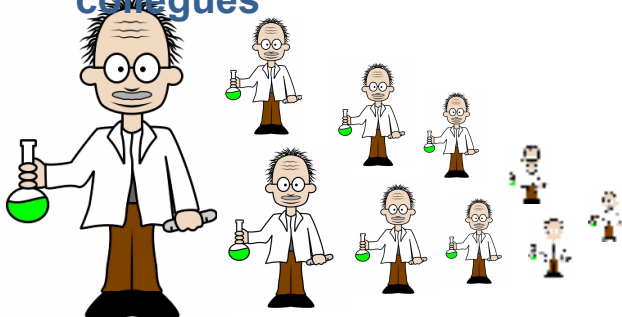
- **Nitrazepam** --a type of benzodiazepine



The core structure  
of benzodiazepine

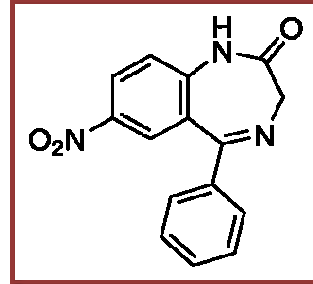
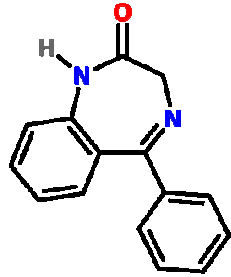
There was a group of scientists :

**Sternbach and his  
colleagues**



They tried to modify benzodiazepine ,  
one of which is the introduction of nitro  
group

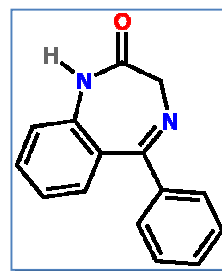
several nitro compounds were prepared and **nitrazepam** is one of the successful products



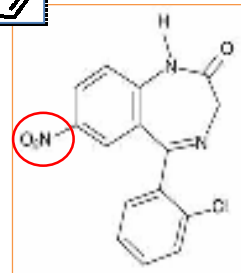
much more potent than chlordiazepoxide in both mice and cats.

## Molecular modification

- a chloro-nitrobenzodiazepine (a chlorinated derivative of nitrazepam)
- differs from nitrazepam with the substitution of a chlorine atom



nitrazepam

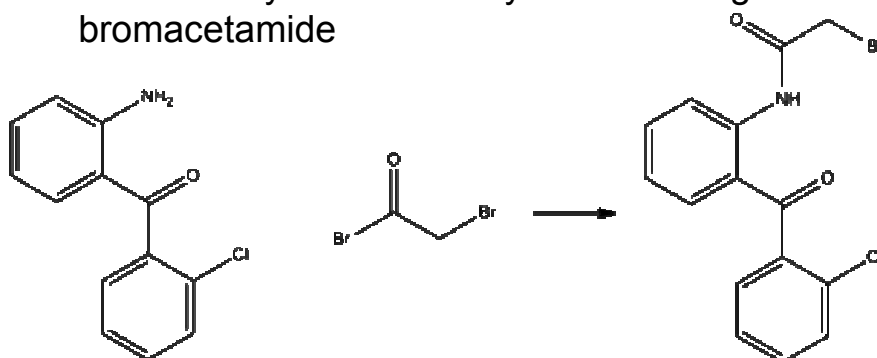


Clonazepam

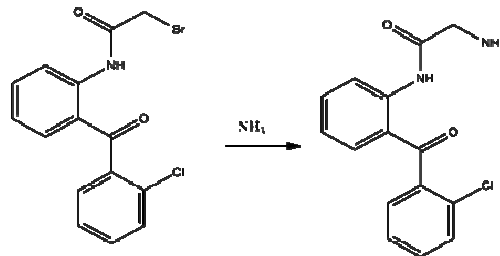
- IUPAC: 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-1,3-dihydro-7-nitro-2H-1,4-benzodiazepine-2-one
- synthesized by derivatives of 1,4-benzodiazepines
- the acceptor **nitro group (NO<sub>2</sub>)** or C7 of the benzodiazepine system is introduced at the **last stage** of synthesis



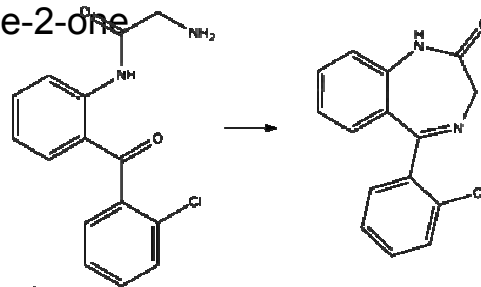
1. 2-chloro-2'-nitrobenzophenone → is reduced to 2-chloro-2'-aminobenzophenone by hydrogen over Raney nickel
2. amidated by 2-bromoacetyl bromide to give the bromacetamide



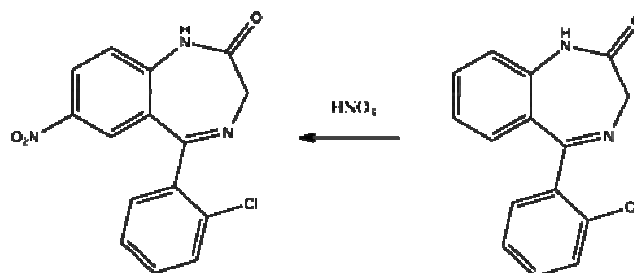
3. converted into aminoacetamide upon reaction with ammonia



4. cyclized into 5-(2-chlorophenyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-1,4-benzodiazepine-2-one



5. nitration of the resulting product in mild conditions (potassium nitrate in sulfuric acid)



**DONE!**



## Clonazepam VS Nitrazepam

### Clonazepam

- longer half-life: 18–50 hours
- No carcinogenicity studies have been conducted
- faster onset of action and higher effectiveness rate: maximum plasma concentrations are reached within 1 to 4 hours after oral administration

### Nitrazepam

- half-life :15-38 hours
- Long-term use will increase the risk of developing cancer.
- maximum plasma concentrations are reached within 3hours after oral administration

## Formulation development

- available as tablets, orally disintegrating tablets (wafers), oral solution (drops), solution for injection or intravenous infusion



- inactive ingredients of Clonazepam tablet :
  - anhydrous lactose
  - colloidal silicon dioxide
  - magnesium stearate
  - microcrystalline cellulose
  - pregelatinized starch
  - sodium lauryl
  - colourings



#### (IV) Safety tests and human trials

- (i) Aim: To study the deficiency diseases caused by the use of clonazepam during pregnancy
- (ii) Aim: To test the effectiveness of clonazepam in treating p



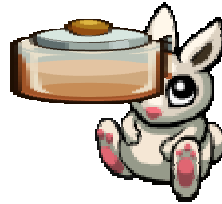
Clonazepam was administered orally to pregnant rabbits



0.2 mg/kg/day



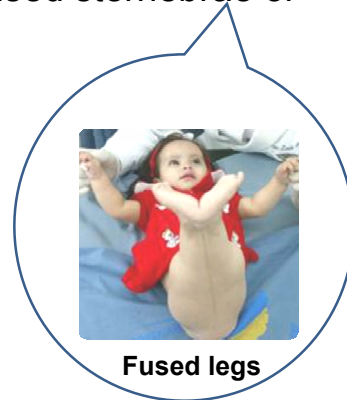
1.5 mg/kg/day



10 mg/kg/day

## Result 1

- ALL babies show malformations :  
cleft palate, open eyelid, fused sternbrae or limbs



Fused legs



## Result 2

- dosages of **5 & 10 mg/kg/day** :  
reductions in maternal weight gain
- dosage of **10 mg/kg/day** :  
reduction in embryo-fetal growth



## Conclusion



### fixed-dose study

- 9-week & 4 phases :
- 1-week placebo lead-in
- 3-week upward titration,
- 6-week fixed dose
- 7-week discontinuance phase.
- doses of 0.5, 1, 2, 3 or 4 mg/day or placebo

### flexible-dose study

- 6-week & 3 phases
- 1-week placebo lead-in
- 6-week optimal-dose
- 6-week discontinuance phase.
- doses range of 0.5 to 4 mg/day or placebo
- mean clonazepam dose during the optimal dosing period was 2.3 mg/day.

## Result : fixed-dose study

- **1 mg/day** group shows the most significant effect
- **74%** free of full panic attacks
- placebo-treated patients : **56%**

## Result: flexible-dose study

Patients receiving clonazepam

→ **62%** of patients : **free of full panic attacks**

→ of placebo-treated patients : **37%**

## Conclusion:

- Clonazepam is significantly **more effective** than placebo in treating panic disorder on change from baseline in panic attack frequency.



## (V)Approval for marketing:

August 3, 2005,

