

Drug Information Table

Methylphenidate – methylphenidate (Ritalin, Concerta, Daytrana)

Therapeutic Use	Administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder • Narcolepsy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give oral forms as directed depending on duration of action and type of preparation. • Sustained-release forms must never be crushed or chewed; swallow whole • Metadate CD and Ritalin LA capsules may be opened and sprinkled on food (e.g., applesauce) • Apply transdermal patch (Daytrana) in a.m., leaving on for no more than 9 hr daily • Apply patch to a new area daily; do not apply over rash or inflamed skin 	
Side/Adverse Effects	Interventions	Patient Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insomnia, nervousness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give doses early in day to allow for nighttime sleep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct patients to avoid caffeine • Instruct patients to take the drug as early in the day as possible (last dose no later than 4 p.m.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anorexia, weight loss, possible growth suppression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor weight and height • Drug “holidays” may help prevent growth suppression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct patient/family to report anorexia, weight loss to provider • Arrange largest meals for times of day when appetite is greatest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypertension, tachycardia, heart palpitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor vital signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct patient to report cardiovascular symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerance, dependence and risk for abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor use of this drug carefully 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct patient to take only as directed and not to increase dosage • Advise patient/family regarding abuse potential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal – occurs when drug is stopped abruptly (depression) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taper dose when discontinuing drug • Monitor for signs of depression, fatigue when drug is stopped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct patient not to stop this drug abruptly, but to taper dose
Contraindications	Precautions	Interactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergy to amphetamines • Cardiac arrhythmias • Structural cardiac defects • Psychosis, depression • History of drug abuse • Mania, agitation • Children under age 6 • Use of MAOIs within 2 weeks • Glaucoma • Motor tics • Tourette’s syndrome (or family history) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypertension • Hyperthyroidism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use within 2 weeks of MAOI antidepressants can cause severe hypertension • Increased chance of cardiac effects when taken with other stimulants, digoxin, beta blockers or tricyclic antidepressants