

Drug Information Table

Methylxanthines – theophylline (Theolair, Theochron, Theo-24)

Therapeutic Use	Administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term management of chronic asthma as well as chronic bronchitis and emphysema. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a dose is missed, do not double the dose. • Chew chewable tablets thoroughly. • Do not crush or chew sustained-release or enteric-coated preparations. • Maintain scheduled interval between doses. 	
Side/Adverse Effects	Interventions	Patient Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare at therapeutic levels • When therapeutic levels are exceeded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Restlessness, insomnia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor plasma drug levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce or eliminate caffeine intake. • Have periodic laboratory testing of drug levels.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor plasma drug levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have periodic laboratory testing of drug levels.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When reaches toxic levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Seizures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor plasma drug levels. • Discontinue drug therapy. • Give activated charcoal to decrease absorption. • Prepare to initiate anticonvulsant therapy and institute seizure precautions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop taking the drug and notify provider if experience seizure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dysrhythmias 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor plasma drug levels. • Discontinue drug therapy. • Monitor heart rate and rhythm. • Give antidysrhythmics to restore heart rate and rhythm. • Initiate anticonvulsant therapy and institute seizure precautions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop taking the drug and notify provider if begin experiencing dysrhythmias.
Contraindications	Precautions	Interactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiac disorders that cannot withstand myocardial stimulation • Severe liver or renal impairment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart disease • Liver dysfunction • Acute pulmonary edema • Hyperthyroidism • Diabetes mellitus • Peptic ulcer disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cimetidine (Tagamet), some fluoroquinolones, and caffeine increase the risk of toxicity. • Phenobarbital, phenytoin (Dilantin), and nicotine increase metabolism of theophylline.