

Patient Education

DEXTROAMPHETAMINE - ORAL CAPSULE, TABLET

IMPORTANT NOTE: The following information is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your physician, pharmacist or other healthcare professional. It should not be construed to indicate that use of the drug is safe, appropriate, or effective for you. Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug.

DEXTROAMPHETAMINE - ORAL CAPSULE, TABLET

(dex-trow-am-FET-uh-meen)

COMMON BRAND NAME(S): Dexedrine, Dextrostat, DAS

WARNING: Amphetamine-type medications can be habit-forming. Use only as directed. With prolonged use, drug dependence may occur (i.e., withdrawal symptoms may occur after stopping drug). Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more details.

USES:

This medication stimulates nerve cells in the brain. It is used in the treatment of narcolepsy or attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity in children and adults.

HOW TO USE:

It is best to take this medication early in the day to prevent trouble sleeping at night.

Use this medication exactly as prescribed. Do not increase your dose, take it more frequently or use it for a longer period of time than prescribed because this drug can be habit-forming. Also, if used for an extended period of time, do not suddenly stop using this drug without your doctor's approval.

When used for an extended period, this medication may not work as well and may require different dosing. Talk with your doctor if this medication stops working well.

In attention deficit disorder, your doctor may recommend "drug holidays" where the medication is stopped temporarily and behavior is evaluated.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Nausea, stomach upset, cramps, loss of appetite, diarrhea, constipation, dry mouth, headache, nervousness, dizziness, sleep problems, irritability or restlessness may occur the first several days as your body adjusts to the medication. Other side effects reported include twitching, sweating, flushing, muscle tremor, change in sexual desire or ability. If any of these effects continue or become bothersome, inform your doctor.

Notify your doctor promptly if you develop: chest pain, fast/irregular heartbeat, mental/mood changes.

If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

PRECAUTIONS:

Tell your doctor your medical history, especially of: high blood pressure, an over-active thyroid, glaucoma, diabetes, emotional instability, allergies (especially drug allergies).

This medication causes dizziness and can affect alertness. Use caution driving or operating machinery while taking this medication.

This medication must be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. Because small amounts of this medication appear in breast milk, breast-feeding is not recommended while taking this medicine.

Alcohol can increase unwanted side effects of dizziness. Avoid alcohol use.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

Inform your doctor about all the medicines you use, especially of: high blood pressure medicine, MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, linezolid, phenelzine, selegiline, tranylcypromine), meperidine, digoxin, antidepressants.

Foods and drugs that make your stomach/intestinal tract acidic may decrease absorption of dextroamphetamine. A partial listing of these items includes: fruit juices, reserpine, sodium acid phosphate, vitamin C, guanethidine.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more details.

Drugs that make your stomach/intestinal tract basic (alkaline) may increase absorption of dextroamphetamine. A partial listing of these include: sodium bicarbonate, acetazolamide.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more details.

Avoid "stimulant" drugs that may increase your heart rate such as decongestants or caffeine. Decongestants are commonly found in over-the-counter cough-and-cold medicine.

Do not start or stop any medicine without doctor or pharmacist approval.

OVERDOSE:

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately. US residents can call the US national poison hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Canadian residents should call their local poison control center directly. Symptoms of overdose may include nausea, vomiting, stomach pain or cramping, restlessness, severe or persistent headache, shakiness, confusion, fast or irregular heartbeat, seizures, and loss of consciousness.

NOTES:

Although this medication is often referred to as a stimulant, it is not effective and even dangerous and illegal to use this to try to improve athletic performance, mental alertness or to stay awake. Use this medication only as directed.

It is important to keep this and all medications out of the reach of children. Never share medications with anyone.

MISSED DOSE:

If you miss a dose, take as soon as remembered; do not take if it is almost time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the dose to catch up.

STORAGE:

Store at room temperature away from sunlight and moisture.

