

Dexamfetamine (pronounced decks-am-feta-mean)



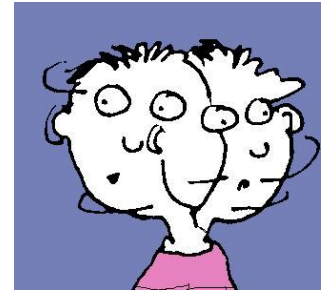
What is dexamfetamine?

Dexamfetamine (also known as dexamphetamine or as Dexedrine®) is mainly used to help treat the symptoms of ADHD, and sometimes narcolepsy.

What is ADHD?

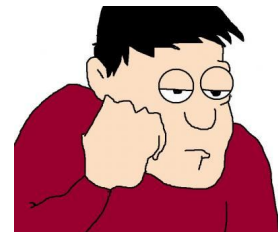
ADHD stands for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. ADHD can cause you to be restless, easily distracted, not finish things, get into trouble, do things without thinking first, and not do well at school.

Dexamfetamine helps boost the part of the brain that should be helping you to concentrate. This helps you concentrate better, so you can work better at school, not get into trouble as much and even sleep better.



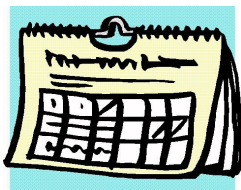
How and when should I take dexamfetamine?

Swallow the tablets with at least half a glass of water while you are sitting or standing. This is to make sure that they reach the stomach and do not stick in your throat. Try to take them at regular times each day, but make sure the last dose is no later than teatime.



How long will I have to wait before it works?

It usually starts to work within a few hours of a dose. If you keep taking it, the effect will build over the next few days, weeks and months.

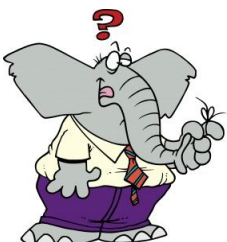


How long will I need to keep taking dexamfetamine for?

Probably for several years. Some people keep on taking it even when they have become adults.

Can I stop taking dexamfetamine suddenly?

You can stop taking low doses of dexamfetamine in an emergency but you might get some withdrawal effects. So, it is better not to do this without talking it over first with other people e.g. relatives or your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Things normally work out much better if you stop medication in a planned way.



What should I do if I forget to take a dose of dexamfetamine?

Take it as soon as you remember within about 2-3 hours of when it is due **BUT** do not take a dose any later than about late afternoon. If you do, it will mean that it may be much more difficult to get to sleep. Do not try to catch up by taking two or more doses at once as you may get more side-effects.

Can I cycle or drive while I am taking dexamfetamine?

You may feel a bit light-headed at first when taking dexamfetamine. Until this wears off, or you know how dexamfetamine affects you, be careful cycling and, if you are old enough, do not drive or operate machinery.



What sort of side-effects might I get with dexamfetamine?

The table below will show you some of the main side effects you might get from dexamfetamine, and what you can do about them.

	<p>Not feeling hungry. You will usually get your appetite back in a few weeks. If not, let your doctor know next time you meet.</p>		<p>Feeling more anxious or nervous. This usually only lasts for a few weeks while you get used to the dexamfetamine. If not, tell your doctor next time you meet.</p>
	<p>Headache. If your head is painful, paracetamol usually helps.</p>		<p>Cough, sore nose and throat. This should wear off but see your doctor if it does not.</p>
	<p>Feeling sick or being sick, or stomach pain. This usually wears off in a few weeks. If not, let your doctor know. Taking it after food may help.</p>		<p>Feeling angry, irritable, or low. If this occurs, discuss with your doctor as soon as possible.</p>
	<p>Not being able to get to sleep at night. This can be a problem. Let your doctor know. He or she may be able to change your dose. Make sure you take the dose early in the day.</p>		<p>Feeling dizzy, light-headed or faint. Do not stand up too quickly. Try and lie down when you feel it coming on. Do not cycle or drive.</p>

Do not be worried by this list of side effects. Some people get no side effects at all and others may get some effects that are not listed in this table. If you think you might have a side effect to your medicine, you should ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. If you want to know more, go to our website for links to other websites with more information.

The small print: This leaflet is to help you understand about your medicine. You should also read the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (PIL). You may find lots more on the internet but beware as internet-based information is not always accurate. Do not share medicines with anyone else. Go to our website for fuller answers to these and many other questions e.g. driving, women's health, how it works, doses and interactions, and about the conditions. The "Handy charts" will help you compare the main medicines for each condition, how they work and their side effects.