
METHAMPHETAMINE (Desoxyn) Fact Sheet [G]

BOTTOM LINE:

Highly addictive substance; its use is generally not recommended. Watch the television show *Breaking Bad* if you're not convinced!

PEDIATRIC FDA INDICATIONS:

ADHD (6–17 years); **obesity** (12–17 years).

ADULT FDA INDICATIONS:

Obesity.

DOSAGE FORMS:

Tablets (G): 5 mg.

PEDIATRIC DOSAGE GUIDANCE:

ADHD: Start 5 mg QAM–BID, ↑ by 5 mg/day at weekly intervals to max 20 mg/day, divided BID.

MONITORING: Weight, height, BP/P; ECG.

COST: \$\$\$\$

SIDE EFFECTS:

- Most common: Anorexia, tachycardia, dizziness, insomnia, tremor, tics, restlessness, headache, constipation (decreased GI motility). Dental complications, such as poor dental hygiene, diffuse cavities, bruxism, and tooth wear, may develop with misuse.
- Serious but rare: See class warnings in chapter introduction.

MECHANISM, PHARMACOKINETICS, AND DRUG INTERACTIONS:

- Stimulant that inhibits reuptake of dopamine and norepinephrine.
- Metabolized primarily through CYP2D6 to active metabolite (amphetamine); $t_{1/2}$: 4–5 hours.
- Avoid use with MAOIs and antacids. Caution with 2D6 inhibitors, which may increase stimulant effects.

EVIDENCE AND CLINICAL PEARLS:

- FDA indication, but very limited published data in children.
- High risk of misuse.
- Not widely used (DEA reports that there were only 16,000 prescriptions written in 2012). When prescribed for obesity, the recommendation is for short-term (ie, a few weeks) use only and as an adjunct to caloric restriction due to its high addiction and diversion potential.
- CNS stimulating effect is approximately equal to or greater than that of amphetamine but less than that of dextroamphetamine; less BP elevation than with amphetamine.

FUN FACTS:

Desoxyn is the same as the abused street drug methamphetamine, just pharmaceutical grade. Although methamphetamine and amphetamine were long thought to be available only via laboratories, methamphetamine has been reported to occur naturally in certain acacia trees that grow in West Texas.