

ADHD MEDICATION

Dexamfetamine Sulfate

Brand Name:
Amfexa

Dexamfetamine sulfate is a stimulant medication used to help manage symptoms of ADHD. It can help with attention and concentration and may reduce impulsivity and hyperactivity.

Your Dose

Your clinician will agree your starting dose with you and increase it gradually if needed.

Commences with 5mg twice a day, then increased under the guidance of a clinician at weekly intervals following review of effectiveness.

Maintenance dose given in 2 to 4 divided doses, maximum daily dosage of 60mg.

The aim is to find the lowest dose that gives you good symptom control with manageable side effects.

Always take dexamfetamine exactly as prescribed. Do not change your dose without speaking to your prescribing clinician.

Before taking Dexamfetamine

Before starting dexamfetamine, tell your clinician about any physical or mental health conditions you have, even if they are well controlled or you have experienced them in the past.

Certain medical conditions may mean that dexamfetamine is not suitable for you. Others may require additional assessment, specialist advice or closer monitoring before treatment can begin.

It is particularly important that your clinician knows if you have, or have previously had:

- Heart problems, high blood pressure or circulation problems
- A stroke, aneurysm, advanced arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) or another blood vessel condition
- Pheochromocytoma (a rare tumour of the adrenal gland)
- Porphyria (a rare condition affecting the production of haem)
- An overactive thyroid
- Glaucoma
- Epilepsy or seizures
- Tics or Tourette's syndrome
- An eating disorder, including anorexia nervosa
- Bipolar disorder, psychosis or schizophrenia
- Severe depression or suicidal thoughts
- Kidney problems
- A history of alcohol or drug dependence or misuse

Important: Dexamfetamine must not be used in certain medical conditions, including some serious heart conditions, anorexia nervosa, psychotic disorders and certain severe mood disorders. If you have any of these conditions, your clinician will need to assess your medical history carefully and determine whether dexamfetamine is appropriate for you. This may require additional specialist assessment or discussion with a multidisciplinary clinical team. Do not start taking dexamfetamine until your clinician has reviewed your medical history and confirmed that it is appropriate for you.

Other medicines

Dexamfetamine can interact with other medicines, sometimes causing serious side effects.

Tell your clinician about everything you take, including prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, supplements, herbal remedies such as St John's wort, and recreational drugs.

This is particularly important for:

- Certain antidepressants (including MAOIs)
- Medicines for blood pressure or heart conditions
- Antipsychotic medicines
- Epilepsy medicines
- Anticoagulants (blood-thinning medicines)
- Opioid painkillers, particularly tramadol and pethidine
- Triptan medicines used to treat migraines
- Some cough and cold remedies

Some medicines called monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) must not be taken with dexamfetamine or within 14 days of taking dexamfetamine.

If you are unsure whether something is safe to take, check with your clinician or pharmacist first.

Full list of medicine interactions

Acenocoumarol	Fluoxetine	Pentazocine	St John's wort
Apraclonidine	Fluvoxamine	Pericyazine	Tapentadol
Atomoxetine	Imipramine	Pethidine	Tramadol
Bupropion	Isocarboxazid	Phenelzine	Tranlycypromine
Chlorpromazine	Levomepromazine	Prochlorperazine	Trazodone
Citalopram	Linezolid	Promazine	Trifluoperazine
Clomipramine	Methadone	Rasagiline	Tryptophan
Dapoxetine	Methylthionium chloride	Ritonavir	Venlafaxine
Duloxetine	Moclobemide	Safinamide	Vortioxetine
Escitalopram	Nabilone	Selegiline	Warfarin
Fenfluramine	Nirmatrelvir	Sertraline	
Fentanyl	Paroxetine	Sevoflurane	

Surgery and anaesthesia

If you are due to have an operation or medical procedure, tell your surgeon and anaesthetist that you are taking dexamfetamine.

Dexamfetamine can interact with certain anaesthetic medicines and may cause a sudden increase in blood pressure.

Your medical team may advise you not to take dexamfetamine on the day of your operation, depending on the type of anaesthetic being used.

Always follow the instructions given by your surgical or anaesthetic team. Do not change your medication without discussing it with them first.

Other medicines

Serotonin syndrome – important safety information

Dexamfetamine can increase serotonin activity in the brain. When taken with certain other medicines, it can rarely cause serotonin syndrome, a potentially serious reaction.

The risk may be increased when dexamfetamine is taken with:

- Antidepressants, including fluoxetine, sertraline, escitalopram, venlafaxine and mirtazapine
- Lithium, including lithium carbonate and lithium citrate
- Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs), which must not be taken with dexamfetamine or within 14 days of MAOI treatment
- Certain strong painkillers, including tramadol and pethidine
- Triptan medicines used to treat migraines
- The herbal remedy St John's wort

Always tell your clinician about every medicine, supplement or herbal remedy you take.

- Recognising the symptoms
- Early symptoms of serotonin syndrome may include:
- Agitation or confusion
- Sweating, shivering or fever
- Tremor, muscle twitching or jerking
- Overactive reflexes
- Diarrhoea
- A racing heart

Seek urgent medical advice if you develop symptoms of serotonin syndrome.

When to call 999

Call 999 immediately if you develop severe symptoms, including a high temperature, seizures, an irregular heartbeat or loss of consciousness.

Side effects

Like all medicines, dexamfetamine can cause side effects. Not everybody will experience them.

Side effects are often most noticeable when treatment starts or when your dose changes.

Tell your clinical team if side effects are bothering you, getting worse or affecting your day-to-day life.

Full list of Side Effects

Common / very common	Vomiting	Psychosis	Drug dependence
Abdominal pain	Weight decreased	Seizure	Hyperhidrosis
Anxiety	Rare / very rare	Skin reactions	Hypermetabolism
Appetite decreased	Anaemia	Suicidal behaviours	Hyperpyrexia
Arrhythmias	Angina pectoris	Thrombocytopenia	Kidney injury
Arthralgia	Cardiac arrest	Tic (in those at risk)	Myocardial infarction
Behaviour abnormal	Central nervous system	Vision disorders	Neuroleptic malignant
Depression	vasculitis	Frequency not known	syndrome (discontinue–
Dry mouth	Cerebrovascular	Acidosis	potentially fatal)
Headache	insufficiency	Alopecia	Obsessive-compulsive
Mood altered	Fatigue	Cardiomyopathy	disorder
Movement disorders	Growth retardation	Chest pain	Reflexes increased
Muscle cramps	Hallucination	Circulatory collapse	Rhabdomyolysis
Nausea	Hepatic coma	Colitis ischaemic	Sexual dysfunction
Palpitations	Hepatic function abnormal	Concentration impaired	Sudden death
Poor weight gain	Intracranial haemorrhage	Confusion	Taste altered
Sleep disorders	Leucopenia	Diarrhoea	Tremor
Vertigo	Mydriasis	Dizziness	

Get urgent medical help

- ⚠ Hallucinations or symptoms of psychosis
- ⚠ Suicidal thoughts or behaviour
- ⚠ Severe or unexplained chest pain
- ⚠ A seizure

Seek urgent medical advice if you develop serious or unexpected symptoms, including:

- ⚠ Severe muscle pain, weakness or cramping
- ⚠ Swelling of your face, lips, tongue or throat
- ⚠ Difficulty breathing or swallowing

Call **999** if you think you are experiencing a medical emergency. A full list of possible side effects is available in the Patient Information Leaflet supplied with your medication.

Reporting side effects

If you experience any side effects while taking dexamfetamine, speak to your clinician or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed on this page or in the Patient Information Leaflet supplied with your medication.

You can also report suspected side effects directly to the

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) through the Yellow Card scheme.

Report online at yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk or use the MHRA Yellow Card app.

Reporting suspected side effects helps improve the safety of medicines for everyone.

Taking the medication

If you miss a dose

Do not take a double dose.

If you miss a dose, skip it and take your next dose at the usual time unless your clinician has given you different instructions.

If you take too much

Taking too much dexamfetamine can be serious and may require emergency medical treatment.

Signs of an overdose may include:

- Severe agitation, restlessness or confusion
- Tremor, muscle twitching or seizures
- A rapid or irregular heartbeat
- Chest pain
- High temperature or excessive sweating
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea
- Hallucinations or unusual behaviour

If you take more dexamfetamine than you have been prescribed, seek medical advice immediately, even if you feel well.

When to call 999

Call 999 immediately if you or someone else experiences severe symptoms following a suspected overdose, including seizures, chest pain, collapse, loss of consciousness or difficulty breathing.

Do not drive yourself to hospital. Take your medication packaging with you if possible.

Stopping dexamfetamine

Do not stop taking dexamfetamine suddenly without discussing it with your prescribing clinician.

Stopping treatment abruptly can cause withdrawal symptoms, including extreme tiredness, low mood, agitation, changes in sleep and increased appetite.

Your clinician may recommend reducing your dose gradually to help minimise withdrawal symptoms and monitor any return of your ADHD symptoms.

If you are considering stopping treatment or are experiencing difficulties with your medication, speak to your clinician so they can advise you on the safest approach.

Alcohol

You should not drink alcohol while taking dexamfetamine.

Alcohol can increase the risk of side effects and may affect your judgement, coordination and ability to recognise how much alcohol you have consumed.

Combining alcohol with dexamfetamine may also increase the risk of unwanted effects on your heart rate, blood pressure and nervous system.

Speak to your clinician if you have any questions about alcohol and your medication.

Taking the medication

Driving

Dexamfetamine can affect your ability to drive safely, particularly if it causes dizziness, drowsiness, blurred vision or changes in concentration.

Do not drive until you know how the medication affects you. You must not drive if your ability to drive safely is impaired.

Driving and the law

Dexamfetamine is a controlled drug and may produce a positive result on a roadside drug screening test.

It is an offence to drive with certain controlled drugs above specified limits in your body. However, a statutory medical defence may apply if the medication has been prescribed for you, you have taken it in accordance with your prescriber's instructions and the supplied information, and your driving is not impaired.

It is advisable to carry evidence of your prescription, such as a repeat prescription slip or a letter from your clinician.

You must inform the DVLA if your ADHD or medication affects your ability to drive safely.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Tell your clinician if you are pregnant, think you might be pregnant, are planning a pregnancy or are breastfeeding.

Your clinician will discuss the potential benefits and risks of continuing dexamfetamine and help you decide on the most appropriate treatment for your circumstances.

Pregnancy and contraception

If you could become pregnant, discuss contraception and pregnancy planning with your clinician before starting dexamfetamine.

If you become pregnant while taking dexamfetamine, contact your clinician as soon as possible. Do not stop taking your medication without medical advice.

Possible risks during pregnancy

There is limited information about the effects of dexamfetamine during pregnancy.

Studies involving exposure to amphetamine medicines during pregnancy have suggested a possible increased risk of pre-eclampsia (high blood pressure during pregnancy) and premature birth.

Babies exposed to amphetamine medicines during pregnancy may also experience withdrawal symptoms after birth.

Your clinician will consider these potential risks alongside the benefits of treatment and discuss the safest approach for you and your baby.

Breastfeeding

Dexamfetamine can pass into breast milk and may affect your baby.

Breastfeeding while taking dexamfetamine is generally not recommended. Your clinician can discuss your individual circumstances and the available treatment and feeding options.

Taking the medication

If treatment continues while breastfeeding under specialist medical supervision, your baby may need monitoring for feeding difficulties, irritability, sleep problems or poor weight gain.

Drug screening and laboratory tests

Drug screening

Dexamfetamine may produce a positive result on workplace or roadside drug screening tests. If you are required to undergo drug testing, inform the relevant healthcare professional or testing provider that you are taking prescribed dexamfetamine.

Laboratory tests

Dexamfetamine can interfere with certain laboratory tests, including some tests that measure steroid levels. Tell your clinician that you are taking dexamfetamine before undergoing blood or urine tests.

Instructions

Dexamfetamine sulfate is a Schedule 2 controlled drug

Your pharmacy may ask you to provide proof of identity when you collect it, so we recommend taking photo ID with you.

Keep your medication somewhere safe and secure. Never give it to anyone else, even if they have similar symptoms.

Keeping treatment safe

While taking dexamfetamine, you will need regular reviews. Your clinical team may monitor:

- Your clinical team may monitor:
- Your blood pressure
- Your pulse
- Your weight
- Your height and growth, if you are under 18
- How well the medication is working
- Any side effects
- Your mental health and wellbeing

For children and young people, height and weight will be monitored regularly to check that treatment is not affecting normal growth and development.

These checks help your clinician decide whether your dose remains appropriate and whether any changes to your treatment are needed.

Questions or concerns

If you are experiencing side effects, are unsure how to take your medication or have questions about another medicine, contact the HG Mind Works clinical team before making changes to your treatment.

clients@hg-mindworks.com