

Dextroamphetamine Extended-Release (Dexedrine Spansule) – Patient Information Handout

What is dextroamphetamine extended-release?

Dextroamphetamine extended-release (brand name: Dexedrine Spansule) is a prescription stimulant medication used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy. It works by increasing certain natural chemicals in the brain (dopamine and norepinephrine) that help with focus, attention, and wakefulness. The extended-release capsule is designed to release the medication gradually throughout the day.

How to take this medication

- Take the capsule in the morning when you first wake up.
 - Swallow the capsule whole. Do not crush or chew it.
 - You may take it with or without food.
 - Do not take this medication in the late afternoon or evening, as it may cause trouble sleeping.
 - Take the lowest dose that works for you. Your doctor may adjust your dose over time.
 - If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember — but skip it if it is late in the day. Do not double up on doses.
 - Store this medication in a safe, secure place (preferably locked). Do not share it with anyone else.
-

Common side effects

- Decreased appetite or weight loss
- Trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- Dry mouth or unpleasant taste

- Headache
- Stomach pain, nausea, or diarrhea
- Feeling restless or jittery
- Dizziness

Many of these side effects improve over time. Talk to your doctor if they are bothersome or do not go away.

Serious side effects — contact your doctor right away if you experience:

- Chest pain, shortness of breath, or fainting
 - Fast or irregular heartbeat
 - New or worsening mood changes, anxiety, agitation, or aggression
 - Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there) or paranoia
 - Numbness, pain, or color changes in your fingers or toes (signs of circulation problems)
 - Uncontrolled movements or vocal tics
 - Signs of an allergic reaction: rash, hives, swelling of the face/lips/tongue, or difficulty breathing
-

Important warnings

- **Heart risks:** This medication can raise blood pressure and heart rate. It should not be used by people with serious heart problems, including structural heart defects, serious arrhythmias, or coronary artery disease. Your doctor may check your blood pressure and heart rate regularly.
- **Mental health:** This medication may worsen symptoms in people with a history of psychosis or bipolar disorder. Tell your doctor about any personal or family history of mental health conditions.

- **Growth in children:** Long-term use may slow growth and cause weight loss in children. Your doctor will monitor your child's height and weight.
 - **Risk of dependence:** This is a controlled substance with a potential for abuse and dependence. Take it only as prescribed. Do not increase your dose without talking to your doctor.
 - **Pregnancy and breastfeeding:** Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
-

Medications to avoid

Tell your doctor about all medications you take, including over-the-counter drugs and supplements. The following are especially important:

- **MAO inhibitors** (e.g., phenelzine, tranylcypromine, selegiline): Do not take dextroamphetamine if you have used an MAO inhibitor within the past 14 days. This combination can cause a dangerous spike in blood pressure.
 - **Serotonin-affecting drugs** (e.g., certain antidepressants like SSRIs, SNRIs, triptans, tramadol, St. John's Wort): Using these with dextroamphetamine may increase the risk of a rare but serious condition called serotonin syndrome. Symptoms include agitation, confusion, rapid heartbeat, high body temperature, and muscle stiffness.
 - **Antacids and acid-reducing medications** may change how this medication is absorbed.
-

When to seek emergency help

Go to the nearest emergency room or call 911 if you experience:

- Severe chest pain or difficulty breathing
- Fainting or seizures
- Signs of a severe allergic reaction (swelling of the throat, difficulty breathing)

- Thoughts of harming yourself
-

Tips for daily use

- Eat regular meals even if your appetite is reduced. Try eating a good breakfast before the medication takes effect and a nutritious dinner after it wears off.
 - Stay well hydrated throughout the day.
 - Maintain a consistent sleep schedule. Avoid caffeine, especially in the afternoon and evening.
 - Keep all follow-up appointments so your doctor can monitor how the medication is working and check for side effects.
-

Questions? Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions or concerns about your medication.