

Amphetamine-Like Drugs					
Use	For ADD and ADHD; for narcolepsy and treatment of secondary depression.	Half-life: 2–4 h	Onset: 2 h	Peaks: 3 h	Duration: 8–12 h
Example:	methylphenidate HCl (Ritalin, Concerta) CSS II	Route: PO, IV	Pregnancy category: C	Pharmacokinetic: Completely absorbed from GI tract, metabolized in liver, excreted in urine and feces via biliary system.	
How it works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blocks reuptake mechanism of dopaminergic neurons. Decreases motor restlessness, enhances ability to pay attention; increases motor activity, mental alertness, diminishes sense of fatigue, enhances spirit, produces mild euphoria. 				
Adult dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ritalin PO 2.5–5 mg before breakfast and lunch; may increase by 5–10 mg/day at weekly intervals for a maximum dose of 60 mg/day. Concerta: Initially, PO 18 mg once daily; may increase by 18 mg/day at weekly intervals to maximum dose of 54 mg/day. Narcolepsy: PO 10 mg 2–3 times/day; range of 10–60 mg/day. 				
Before administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain medical and drug history. Assess vital signs for baselines. 				
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer before meals. 				
After administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor vital signs. Assess and monitor client’s mental status. Assess and monitor height (in children) and weight. Assess and monitor CBC with differential and platelets. Monitor for side effects. 				
Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypersensitivity; hyperthyroidism, history of marked anxiety, tension, agitation; glaucoma; motor tics; family history of Tourette’s disorder. Cautions: in hypertension, depression, alcoholism, and pregnancy. 				

Amphetamine-Like Drugs <i>(continued)</i>	
<p>Side effects/ adverse reaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent nervousness, insomnia, anorexia. • Occasional dizziness, drowsiness, headache, nausea, stomach pain, fever, rash, joint pain, irritability. <p>Adverse effects:</p> <p>Tachycardia, growth suppression, palpitations, transient loss of weight, increased hyperactivity, dyskinesic movements (face, lips, tongue), hepatitis, jaundice.</p> <p>Life-threatening: exfoliative dermatitis, uremia, thrombocytopenia.</p>
<p>Patient education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take drug before meals. • Avoid alcohol consumption. • Use sugarless gum to relieve dry mouth. • Monitor weight. • Avoid driving and using hazardous equipment when experiencing tremors, nervousness, or increased heart rate. • Avoid caffeine—read labels on OTC products because many contain caffeine. • Do not abruptly discontinue the drug; it must be tapered off to avoid withdrawal symptoms. Consult health care provider before adjusting the dose. • Maintain a well-balanced diet.