

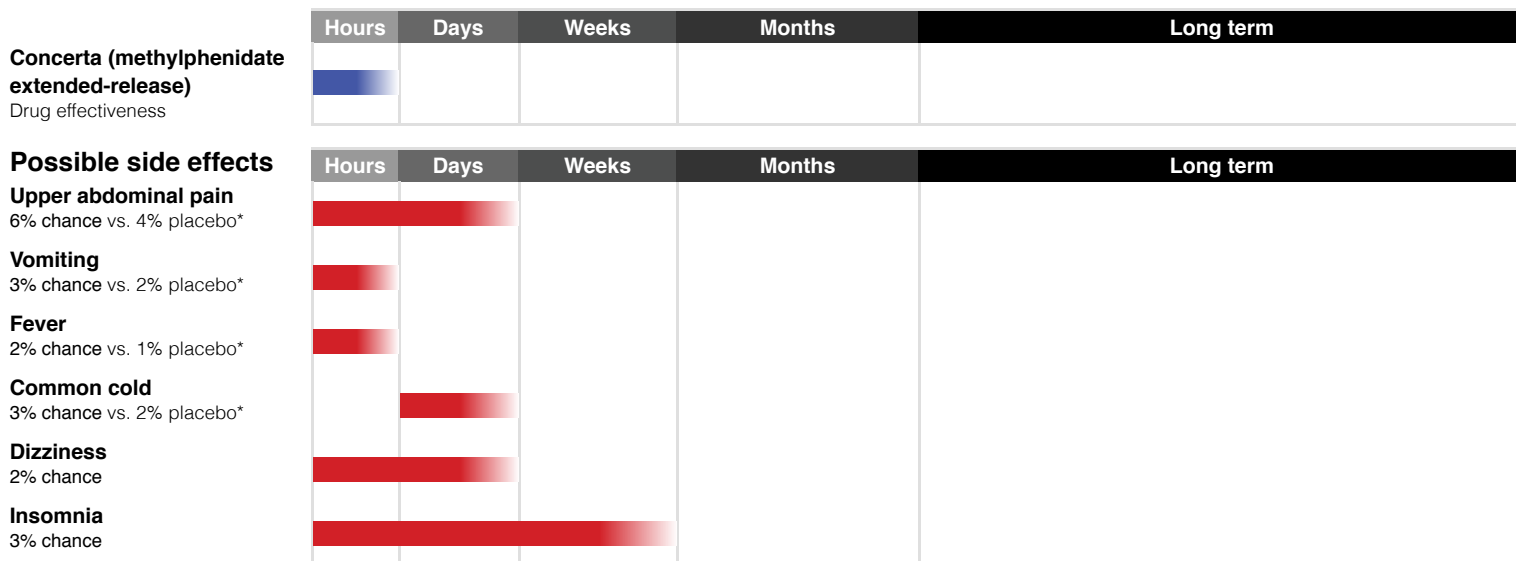
# Concerta (methylphenidate extended-release) basics

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**Helps you focus and stay alert.** Concerta (methylphenidate extended-release) is a first-choice treatment for ADHD that works throughout the day, but can affect growth in children and teens.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Take the pill in the morning with or without food.
- If using the liquid suspension, shake before each dose and take in the morning with or without food.
- Take the dissolving tablet in the morning with or without food. Place it on your tongue and let it melt; don't swallow it whole. Don't take this drug out of the blister pack until you are ready to take it.
- Take the chewable tablet with a full glass of water in the morning. Chew well before swallowing.
- If using the capsule form, you may sprinkle contents of the capsule on applesauce. Swallow without chewing and follow with water or juice.
- Store Concerta (methylphenidate extended-release) in a locked area to prevent abuse.

## Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Abuse and dependence

Concerta (methylphenidate extended-release) has a risk of abuse and dependence. Take only what's prescribed by a doctor to lower risks of abuse and overdose. Misuse of this drug may cause it to not work as well. People with a history of drug and alcohol abuse shouldn't take it.

### Serious or life-threatening heart problems

Concerta (methylphenidate extended-release) has been known to cause heart attacks, stroke, and sudden death. Anyone with a history of heart problems shouldn't use this, and people should be screened for heart problems before starting it. Watch out for unexplained fainting or chest pain that comes on with physical activity.

### Aggressive behavior and psychiatric symptoms

Taking a stimulant like Concerta (methylphenidate extended-release) can worsen or bring on psychiatric symptoms such as hallucinations, delusional thinking, and mania. It may also worsen or bring on aggressive behavior or hostility. Talk to your doctor if you think you are experiencing these symptoms.