

Daytrana (methylphenidate) basics

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Helps you focus and stay alert. Daytrana (methylphenidate) provides convenient, extended control of symptoms related to ADHD, but the patch needs to be removed after 9 hours and reapplied the next morning.

What to expect when starting

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

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Daytrana (methylphenidate) Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar]				
Possible side effects	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Decreased appetite 26% chance vs. 1% placebo*	[Red gradient bar]				
Weight loss 5% chance vs. 1% placebo*		[Red gradient bar]			
Headache 12% chance vs. 13% placebo*	[Red gradient bar]				
Irritability 11% chance vs. 7% placebo*	[Red gradient bar]				
Abdominal pain 5% chance	[Red gradient bar]				
Nausea 10% chance vs. 3% placebo*	[Red gradient bar]				

* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

Tips from pharmacists

- Apply patch to a clean, dry area of the hip. Rotate site of application daily to prevent skin irritation.
- Avoid use late in the day or else you may have trouble falling asleep.
- Don't expose the patch to heaters or electric blankets because heat can interfere with how your body absorbs the drug.
- Do not wear the patch for more than 9 hours each day.
- Can be addictive and may be abused. Keep it out of children's reach and store the medication in a safe place.

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

Daytrana (methylphenidate) has a risk for abuse and dependence. Take only what is prescribed by your doctor to minimize the risk of dependence and overdose. Misusing this drug can cause loss of effect and mental health disturbances. Talk to your doctor about alternative therapies especially if you have a history of drug or alcohol dependence.

Serious or life-threatening heart problems

People taking Daytrana (methylphenidate) have had heart attacks, strokes, and sudden deaths. Anyone with a history of heart problems should not use this. You should be checked for heart problems before starting this medicine. Watch out for unexplained fainting or chest pain that comes on with physical activity.

Aggressive behavior and psychiatric symptoms

Taking a stimulant like Daytrana (methylphenidate) can worsen or cause hallucinations, delusions, and paranoia. It may also worsen or cause aggressive behavior. Talk to your doctor if you have experienced these issues in the past.