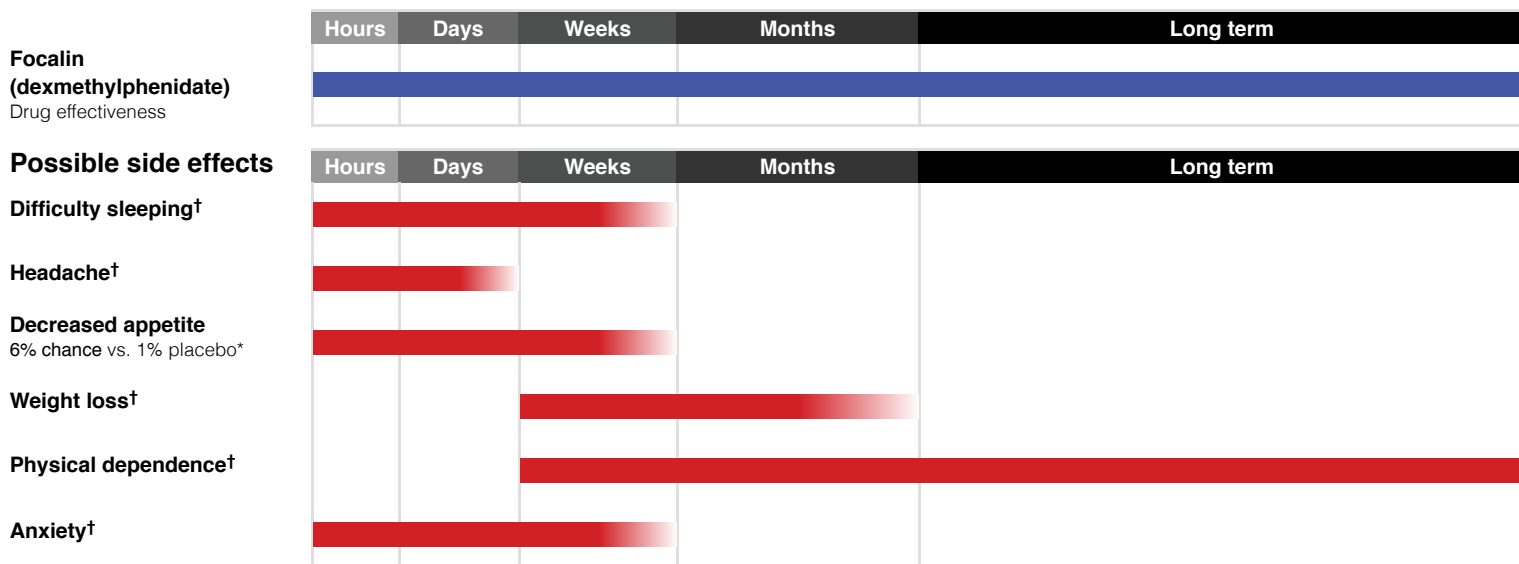


Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) basics

Treats attention deficit disorder. Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) effectively treats ADHD, and is usually recommended if first-line ADHD medications don't work for you.

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.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) can lower your appetite and keep you awake at night. Take Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) with meals in the morning.
- Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) extended release capsules can be opened and sprinkled on a small amount of applesauce for easier administration.
- Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) can affect your concentration, mood, and coordination, so don't drive or operate machinery until you know how it affects you.
- Don't take Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) with alcohol, recreational drugs, or mind-altering medications due to potentially life-threatening side effects.
- Stopping Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) suddenly may cause unpleasant withdrawal side effects. Do not stop suddenly without first talking to your doctor.
- Keep Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) in a secure area and away from others who may potentially abuse it.

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

Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) has a risk of abuse and dependence. Take Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) exactly as prescribed by your doctor and do not stop taking or change dose without consultation. Talk to your doctor about your history of substance abuse and whether Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) is right for you.

Serious or life-threatening cardiovascular events

Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) has been associated with heart attack, stroke, and sudden death, especially in people with heart problems. You may need to be checked for heart problems before starting this medicine. Talk to your doctor about your history of heart conditions. Tell your doctor if you have any unexplained fainting or chest pain while taking Focalin (dexamethylphenidate).

Aggressive behavior and psychosis

Taking a stimulant like Focalin (dexamethylphenidate) may worsen or bring on new psychiatric symptoms such as hallucinations, delusional thinking, and mania. It may also worsen or bring on aggressive behavior or hostility in children and adolescents.