

Methadose (methadone) basics

Treats severe pain or drug dependence. Methadose (methadone) is a cheap and effective treatment for severe chronic pain, but has serious risks for fatal overdose and drug dependence.

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
Methadose (methadone) Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar]				
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Nausea	[Red gradient bar]				
Vomiting	[Red gradient bar]				
Slowed breathing (respiratory depression)	[Red gradient bar]				
Constipation		[Red gradient bar]			
Drowsiness	[Red gradient bar]				
Slow heartbeat	[Red gradient bar]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Methadose (methadone) is a powerful opioid that should only be taken by someone who has tolerated opioids before. Otherwise, it can be fatal.
- Taking more than your doctor prescribed can lead to accidental overdose.
- Can often make you dizzy or drowsy. Avoid activities that require mental concentration until you know how Methadose (methadone) affects you.
- If you need to stop taking this medicine, work with your doctor to lower your dose slowly so you do not undergo withdrawal.

Risks and warnings

This drug carries significant risks, including addiction.

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

Death from lack of oxygen to the body (respiratory depression)

Taking too much Methadose (methadone) can cause irregular or slow breathing that can put you in a coma. Don't take more than what your doctor prescribes. Be aware of any irregularities in your breathing, especially after a change in dose. If you have any shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, dial 911 immediately.

Heart problems (arrhythmia)

Methadose (methadone) can disturb your heart rate. If you have a history of heart disease such as heart attack, stroke, fast/uncontrolled heart rate, or irregular heartbeat, talk to your doctor before using Methadose (methadone). Seek medical attention immediately if you feel faint or have palpitations.

Death from overdose

Even one dose of Methadose (methadone) can be too much for a child, so keep it out of reach from children. For adults, raising the dose too quickly, taking it in high doses or mixing with alcohol or other drugs causes overdose and death. If you observe an adult or child with extreme tiredness, slowed breathing, and/or small pupils after taking Methadose (methadone), call 911 or take them to a hospital immediately.