



Package Leaflet: Information for the user

METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE 5 mg, 10 mg or 20 mg Tablets
Methylphenidate

The name of your medicine is **Methylphenidate Hydrochloride**. It contains the active substance 'methylphenidate hydrochloride'. The name 'methylphenidate' will also be used in this leaflet.

Important things you need to know about your medicine

This medicine is used to treat ADHD

- The full name for ADHD is 'Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder'.
 - The medicine helps with your brain activity. It can help improve your attention, help you concentrate and make you less impulsive.
 - You need to have other treatments for ADHD as well as this medicine.
- Read Section 1 for more information.

Before you take this medicine, talk to your doctor if:

- You have heart, circulation or mental health problems - you may not be able to take this medicine.
 - You are taking any other medicines - this is because methylphenidate can affect how other medicines work.
- Read Section 2 for more information.

While taking this medicine:

- See your doctor regularly. This is because your doctor will want to check how the medicine is working.
 - Do not stop taking the medicine without first talking to your doctor.
 - Your doctor may stop your medicine to see if it is still needed if you take it for more than a year.
 - The most common side effects are feeling nervous, not being able to sleep or having a headache.
- Read Sections 3 and 4 for more information.

Talk to your doctor straight away if any of the following happen:

- Your mood and how you feel changes.
 - You feel any problems with your heart.
- Read Section 4 for more information.

The rest of this leaflet includes more detail and other important information on the safe and effective use of this medicine.

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

The leaflet has been written in sections:

- Sections 1 to 6 are for parents and carers (sometimes called 'your guardians').
 - The last section is a special section for a child or young person to read.
- However, all sections are written as though the child or young person taking the medicine is reading them.

What is in this leaflet

- 1. What Methylphenidate Hydrochloride is and what it is used for**
- 2. What you need to know before you take Methylphenidate Hydrochloride**
- 3. How to take Methylphenidate Hydrochloride**
- 4. Possible side effects**
- 5. How to store Methylphenidate Hydrochloride**
- 6. Contents of the pack and other information**

Information for children and young people

Now read the rest of this leaflet before you start taking this medicine.

- you have ever had heart problems - such as a heart attack, uneven heartbeat, pain and discomfort in the chest, heart failure, heart disease or were born with a heart problem
- you have had a problem with the blood vessels in your brain - such as a stroke, swelling and weakening of part of a blood vessel (aneurysm), narrow or blocked blood vessels or inflammation of the blood vessels (vasculitis)
- you have mental health problems such as:
 - a 'psychopathic' or 'borderline personality' problem
 - abnormal thoughts or visions or an illness called 'schizophrenia'
 - signs of a severe mood problem like:
 - o feeling like killing yourself
 - o severe depression, where you feel very sad, worthless and hopeless
 - o mania, where you feel unusually excitable, over-active and un-inhibited.

Do not take methylphenidate if any of the above apply to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before you take methylphenidate. This is because methylphenidate can make these problems worse.

Warnings and precautions :

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Methylphenidate Hydrochloride if you:

- have liver or kidney problems
- have had fits (seizures, convulsions, epilepsy) or any abnormal brain scans (EEGs)
- have ever abused or been dependent on alcohol, prescription medicines or street drugs
- are a girl and have started your periods (see the 'Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility' section below)
- have hard-to-control, repeated twitching of any parts of the body or you repeat sounds and words
- have high blood pressure
- have a heart problem which is not in the 'Do not take' section above
- have a mental health problem which is not in the 'Do not take' section above. Other mental health problems include:
 - mood swings (from being manic to being depressed - called 'bipolar disorder')
 - starting to be aggressive or hostile, or your aggression gets worse
 - seeing, hearing or feeling things that are not there (hallucinations)
 - believing things that are not true (delusions)
 - feeling unusually suspicious (paranoia)
 - feeling agitated, anxious or tense
 - feeling depressed or guilty.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of the above apply to you before starting treatment. This is because methylphenidate can make these problems worse. Your doctor will want to monitor how the medicine affects you. During treatment, boys and adolescents may unexpectedly experience prolonged erections. This may be painful and can occur at any time. It is important to contact your doctor straight away if your erection lasts for longer than 2 hours, particularly if this is painful.

If you or your child develop blurred vision or other visual disturbances contact your doctor. Your doctor may consider discontinuation of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride. If you or your child develop blurred vision or other visual disturbances contact your doctor. Your doctor may consider discontinuation of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride.

Checks that your doctor will make before you start taking Methylphenidate Hydrochloride

These checks are to decide if methylphenidate is the correct medicine for you. Your doctor will talk to you about:

- any other medicines you are taking
- whether there is any family history of sudden unexplained death
- any other medical problems (such as heart problems) you or your family may have
- how you are feeling, such as feeling high or low, having strange thoughts or if you have had any of these feelings in the past
- whether there is a family history of 'tics' (hard-to-control, repeated twitching of any parts of the body or repeating sounds and words)
- any mental health or behaviour problems you or other family members have ever had. Your doctor will discuss whether you are at risk of having mood swings (from being manic to being depressed - called 'bipolar disorder'). They will check your mental health history, and check if any of your family have a history of suicide, bipolar disorder or depression.

It is important that you provide as much information as you can. This will help your doctor decide if methylphenidate is the correct medicine for you. Your doctor may decide that other medical tests are needed before you start taking this medicine.

Other medicines and Methylphenidate Hydrochloride

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Do not take methylphenidate if you:

- are taking a medicine called a 'monoamine oxidase inhibitor' (MAOI) used for depression or have taken an MAOI in the last 14 days. Taking an MAOI with methylphenidate may cause a sudden increase in your blood pressure.
- If you are taking other medicines, methylphenidate may affect how well they work or may cause side effects. If you are taking any of the following medicines, check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking methylphenidate:
 - other medicines for depression
 - medicines for severe mental health problems
 - medicines for epilepsy
 - medicines used to reduce or increase blood pressure
 - some cough and cold remedies which contain medicines that can affect blood pressure. It is important to check with your pharmacist when you buy any of these products
 - medicines that thin the blood to prevent blood clots.

If you are in any doubt about whether any medicines you are taking are included in the list above, ask your doctor or pharmacist before taking methylphenidate.

Having an operation

Tell your doctor if you are going to have an operation. You should not take methylphenidate on the day of your surgery if a certain type of anaesthetic is used. This is because there is a chance of a sudden rise in blood pressure during the operation.

Drug testing

This medicine may give a positive result when testing for drug use. This includes testing used in sport.

Methylphenidate Hydrochloride with food, drink and alcohol

Taking methylphenidate with food may help to stop stomach pains, feeling sick or being sick.

Do not drink alcohol while taking this medicine. Alcohol may make the side effects of this medicine worse. Remember that some foods and medicines contain alcohol.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and contraception

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine.

Available data do not suggest an increased risk of overall birth defects, whilst a small increase in the risk of malformations of the heart when used during the first three months of pregnancy could not be ruled out. Your doctor will be able to give you more information about this risk. Tell your doctor or pharmacist before using methylphenidate if you or your daughter:

- is sexually active. Your doctor will discuss contraception
- is pregnant or think might be pregnant. Your doctor will decide whether methylphenidate should be taken.
- breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed. It is possible that methylphenidate is passed into human breast milk. Therefore, your doctor will decide whether you should breast-feed while taking methylphenidate.

Driving and using machines

Methylphenidate can affect your ability to drive and use machines as it may make you feel dizzy, have problems focussing or have blurred vision. Do not drive or use machines while taking this medicine until you know how it affects you. It may be also dangerous to do things such as ride a bike or horse or climb trees.

- It is an offence to drive if this medicine affects your ability to drive.
- However, you would not be committing an offence if:
 - o the medicine has been prescribed to treat a medical problem and
 - o you have taken it according to the instructions given by the prescriber or in the information provided with the medicine and
 - o it was not affecting your ability to drive safely.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure whether it is safe for you to drive while taking this medicine.



Information for children and young people

This info is to help you learn the main things about your medicine called Methylphenidate Hydrochloride.

If you don't enjoy reading, someone like your mum, dad or carer (sometimes called 'your guardian') can read it to you and answer any questions.

It may help if you read small bits at a time.

Why have I been given this medicine?

This medicine can help children and young people with 'ADHD'.

- ADHD can make you:
 - run about too much
 - not be able to pay attention
 - act quickly without thinking about what will happen next (impulsive).
- It affects learning, making friends and how you think about yourself. It is not your fault.

While you are taking this medicine

- As well as taking this medicine you will also get help with ways to cope with your ADHD such as talking to ADHD specialists.

- This medicine should help you. But it does not cure ADHD.
- You will need to go to your doctor several times a year for check ups. This is to make sure the medicine is working and that you are growing and developing OK.
- If you take the medicine for more than one year, your doctor may stop your medicine to see if it is still needed. This will probably happen in a school holiday.
- If you take this medicine more than once a day, you may have to remember to take it at school or college. You or your mum, dad or carer will need to find out what the school rules are about this.
- Do not drink alcohol. Alcohol may make the side effects of this medicine worse.
- If you are having sex, please talk to your doctor about contraception. Girls must tell their doctor straight away if they think they may be pregnant. We do not know how this medicine affects unborn babies.

Some people cannot have this medicine

You cannot have this medicine if:

- you have a problem with your heart
- you feel very unhappy, depressed or have a mental illness.



3 How to take Methylphenidate Hydrochloride

How much to take

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

- Your doctor will usually start treatment with a low dose and increase it gradually as required.
- The maximum daily dose is 60 mg.
- The tablets should be swallowed with a drink of water. It is recommended to take tablets in meals.
- The score line is only there to help you break the tablet if you have difficulty swallowing it whole.

If you do not feel better after 1 month of treatment

If you do not feel better, tell your doctor. They may decide you need a different treatment.

Not using Methylphenidate Hydrochloride properly

If Methylphenidate Hydrochloride is not used properly, this may cause abnormal behaviour. It may also mean that you start to depend on the medicine.

Tell your doctor if you have ever abused or been dependent on alcohol, prescription medicines or street drugs.

This medicine is only for you. Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar.

If you take more Methylphenidate Hydrochloride than you should

If you take too much medicine, talk to a doctor or call an ambulance straight away. Tell them how much has been taken.

Signs of overdose may include: being sick, feeling agitated, shaking, increased uncontrolled movements, muscle twitching, fits (may be followed by coma), feeling very happy, being confused, seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not real (hallucinations), sweating, flushing, headache, high fever, changes in heart beat (slow, fast or uneven), high blood pressure, dilated pupils and dry nose and mouth.

If you forget to take Methylphenidate Hydrochloride

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you forget a dose, wait until it is time for the next dose.

If you stop taking Methylphenidate Hydrochloride

If you suddenly stop taking this medicine, the ADHD symptoms may come back or unwanted effects such as depression may appear. Your doctor may want to gradually reduce the amount of medicine taken each day, before stopping it completely. Talk to your doctor before stopping Methylphenidate Hydrochloride.

Things your doctor will do when you are on treatment

Your doctor will do some tests

- Before you start - to make sure that Methylphenidate Hydrochloride is safe and will be of benefit.
- After you start - they will be done at least every 6 months, but possibly more often. They will also be done when the dose is changed.
- These tests will include:
 - checking your appetite
 - measuring height and weight
 - measuring blood pressure and heart rate
 - checking whether you have any problems with your mood, state of mind or any other unusual feelings. Or if these have got worse while taking Methylphenidate Hydrochloride.

Long-term treatment

Methylphenidate Hydrochloride does not need to be taken for ever. If you take Methylphenidate Hydrochloride for more than a year, your doctor should stop treatment for a short time, this may happen during a school holiday. This will show if the medicine is still needed.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4 Possible side effects

Like all medicines, methylphenidate can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Although some people get side effects, most people find that methylphenidate helps them. Your doctor will talk to you about these side effects.

Some side effects could be serious. If you have any of the side effects below, see a doctor straight away:

Common (affects less than 1 in 10 people)

- uneven heartbeat (palpitations)
- mood changes or mood swings or changes in personality

Uncommon (affects less than 1 in 100 people)

- thinking about or feeling like killing yourself
- seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not real, these are signs of psychosis
- uncontrolled speech and body movements (Tourette's)
- signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing

Rare (affects less than 1 in 1,000 people)

- feeling unusually excited, over-active and un-inhibited (mania)

Very rare (affects less than 1 in 10,000 people)

- heart attack
- fits (seizures, convulsions epilepsy)
- skin peeling or purplish red patches
- muscle spasms which you cannot control affecting your eyes, head, neck, body and nervous system -due to a temporary lack of blood supply to the brain
- paralysis or problems with movement and vision, difficulties in speech (these can be signs of problems with the blood vessels in your brain)
- decrease in number of blood cells (red cells, white cells and platelets) which can make you more likely to get infections and make you bleed and bruise more easily
- a sudden increase in body temperature, very high blood pressure and severe convulsions ('Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome'). It is not certain that this side effect is caused by methylphenidate or other drugs that may be taken in combination with methylphenidate.

Other side effects (how often they happen is not known)

- unwanted thoughts that keep coming back
- unexplained fainting, chest pain, shortness of breath (these can be signs of heart problems)

If you have any of the side effects above, see a doctor straight away.

Other side effects include the following. If they get serious, please tell your doctor or pharmacist:

Very common (affects more than 1 in 10 people)

- headache
- feeling nervous
- not being able to sleep.

Common (affects less than 1 in 10 people)

- joint pain
- dry mouth

- high temperature (fever)
- unusual hair loss or thinning
- feeling unusually sleepy or drowsy
- loss of appetite or decreased appetite
- itching, rash or raised red itchy rashes (hives)
- cough, sore throat or nose and throat irritation
- high blood pressure, fast heart beat (tachycardia)
- feeling dizzy, movements which you cannot control, being unusually active
- feeling aggressive, agitated, anxious, depressed, irritable and abnormal behaviour
- stomach pain, diarrhoea, feeling sick, stomach discomfort and being sick. These usually occur at the beginning of treatment and may be reduced by taking the medicine with food.
- excessive teeth grinding (bruxism)

Uncommon (affects less than 1 in 100 people)

- constipation
- chest discomfort
- blood in the urine
- shaking or trembling
- double vision or blurred vision
- muscle pain, muscle twitching
- shortness of breath or chest pain
- increases in liver test results (seen in a blood test)
- anger, feeling restless or tearful, excessive awareness of surroundings, problems sleeping.
- dry eye.

Rare (affects less than 1 in 1,000 people)

- changes in sex drive
- feeling disorientated
- dilated pupils, trouble seeing
- swelling of the breasts in men
- excessive sweating, redness of the skin, red raised skin rash.
- obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) (including irresistible urge to pull out body hair, skin picking, having repeated unwanted thoughts, feelings, images or urges in your mind (obsessive thoughts), performing behaviours or mental rituals (compulsions))

Very rare (affects less than 1 in 10,000 people)

- heart attack
- sudden death
- muscle cramps
- small red marks on the skin
- inflammation or blocked arteries in the brain
- abnormal liver function including liver failure and coma
- changes in test results, including liver and blood tests
- suicidal attempt, abnormal thinking, lack of feeling or emotion
- fingers and toes feeling numb, tingling and changing colour (from white to blue, then red) when cold ('Raynaud's phenomenon').

Other side effects (how often they happen is not known)

- migraine
- very high fever
- slow, fast or extra heart beats
- a major fit ('grand mal convulsions')
- believing things that are not true, confusion
- severe stomach pain, often with feeling and being sick
- problems with the blood vessels of the brain (stroke, cerebral arteritis or cerebral occlusion)
- excessive uncontrolled talking
- erectile dysfunction
- Prolonged erections, sometimes painful, or an increased number of erections.
- inability to control the excretion of urine (incontinence)
- spasm of the jaw muscles that makes it difficult to open the mouth (trismus)
- stuttering
- nosebleed.
- increased pressure in the eye
- eye diseases which may cause decreased vision due to damage to the eye nerve (glaucoma).

Effects on growth

When used for more than a year, methylphenidate may cause reduced growth in some children. This affects less than 1 in 10 children.

- There may be lack of weight gain or height growth.
- Your doctor will carefully watch your height and weight, as well as how well you are eating.
- If you are not growing as expected, then your treatment with methylphenidate may be stopped for a short time.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via Yellow Card Scheme www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5 How to store Methylphenidate Hydrochloride

Make sure you keep your medicine in a safe place, so that no one else takes it, especially younger brothers or sisters.

Do not use Methylphenidate Hydrochloride after the expiry date which is stated on the label. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 25° C.

The tablets should be kept in the original package to protect them from moisture.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6 Contents of the pack and other information

What Methylphenidate Hydrochloride contains

The active substance is methylphenidate hydrochloride.

- Methylphenidate Hydrochloride 5 mg Tablets contains 5 mg of methylphenidate hydrochloride.
- Methylphenidate Hydrochloride 10 mg Tablets contains 10 mg of methylphenidate hydrochloride.
- Methylphenidate Hydrochloride 20 mg Tablets contains 20 mg of methylphenidate hydrochloride.

The other ingredients are:

Calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, maize starch and magnesium stearate.

What Methylphenidate Hydrochloride looks like and contents of the pack

Methylphenidate Hydrochloride is available in three strengths: 5 mg, 10 mg and 20 mg. Tablets are white, flat and round.

Methylphenidate Hydrochloride 5 mg Tablets has one side marked 'RU' and the reverse side marked '5'.

Methylphenidate Hydrochloride 10 mg Tablets has one side marked 'RU 10' with a breakline.

Methylphenidate Hydrochloride 20 mg Tablets has one side marked 'RU 20' with a breakline.

The medicinal product is available in packs containing 28, 30, 56, 60 or 100 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Laboratorios Rubió, S.A. Industria, 29. Pol. Ind. Comte de Sert, 08755 Castellbisbal, Barcelona (Spain).

For any further information about this medicine, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorization Holder.

This leaflet was last revised in September 2025

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Some people need to talk to their doctor before they start having this medicine

You need to talk to your doctor if:

- you have epilepsy (fits)
- you are pregnant or breastfeeding
- you are taking other medicines – your doctor needs to know about all the medicines you are taking.

How do I take my medicine (tablets)?

- Swallow your medicine with water and food.
- Your doctor will tell you how many times a day you should take your medicine.
- Do not stop taking the medicine without talking to your doctor first.

Possible side effects

Side effects are the unwanted things that can happen when you take a medicine. If any of the following happen, tell an adult you trust straight away. They can then talk to your doctor. The main things that can affect you are:

- Feeling or being sick or having tummy pains. These may only happen when you first start taking the medicine. It is best to take the medicine with food.
- Feeling worried or nervous
- Feeling dizzy or getting headaches

- Being very depressed and unhappy or wanting to hurt yourself
- Having different moods than usual, not being able to get to sleep
- Skin rashes, bruising easily, getting out of breath
- The medicine can also make you sleepy. If you feel **sleepy**, it is important **not to do outdoor sports** like riding a horse or bike, swimming or climbing trees. You could hurt yourself and others.
- Your heart beating faster than usual.

If you feel unwell in any way while you are taking your medicine please tell an adult you trust straight away.

Other things to remember

- Make sure you keep your medicine in a safe place, so that no one else takes it, especially younger brothers or sisters.
- The medicine is special for you - **do not let anyone else have it**. It may help you, but it could hurt someone else.
- If you forget to take your medicine **don't** take two tablets the next time. Just take one tablet at the next normal time.
- If you do take too much medicine, tell your mum, dad or carer **right away**.
- It is important not to take too much medicine or you will get ill.
- Don't stop taking your medicine until your doctor says it's OK.

Who should I ask if there is anything I don't understand?

Your mum, dad, carer, doctor, nurse or pharmacist will be able to help you.