

Benzphetamine

PRONUNCIATION: benz FET ah meen

BRAND: Didrex

What is the most important information I should know about benzphetamine?

- Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. Benzphetamine may cause dizziness, blurred vision or restlessness, and it may hide the symptoms of extreme tiredness. If you experience these effects, avoid hazardous activities.
- Benzphetamine is habit forming. You can become physically and psychologically dependent on this medication, and withdrawal effects may occur if you stop taking it suddenly after several weeks of continuous use. Talk to your doctor about stopping this medication gradually.

What is benzphetamine?

- Benzphetamine is a sympathomimetic amine, which is similar to an amphetamine. It is also known as an "anorectic" or "anorexigenic" drug. Benzphetamine stimulates your central nervous system (nerves and brain), which increases your heart rate and blood pressure and decreases your appetite.
- Benzphetamine is used as a short-term supplement to diet and exercise in the treatment of obesity.
- Benzphetamine may also be used for purposes other than those listed in this medication guide.

Who should not take benzphetamine?

You cannot take benzphetamine if you:

- have heart disease or high blood pressure
- have arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries)
- have glaucoma
- have taken a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) such as isocarboxazid (Marplan), tranylcypromine (Parnate), or phenelzine (Nardil) in the last 14 days
- or have a history of drug or alcohol abuse

Before taking this medication, tell your doctor if you have

- problems with your thyroid
- an anxiety disorder
- epilepsy or another seizure disorder
- or diabetes

If you have any of the conditions listed above: you may not be able to take benzphetamine, you may require a lower dose or you might need special monitoring during treatment.

Do not take benzphetamine if you are pregnant. Benzphetamine is in the FDA pregnancy category X. This means that benzphetamine will cause birth defects in an unborn baby.

It is not known whether benzphetamine passes into breast milk. Do not take benzphetamine without first talking to your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

How should I take benzphetamine?

- Take benzphetamine exactly as directed by your doctor. If you do not understand these directions, ask your pharmacist, nurse, or doctor to explain them to you.
- Take each dose with a full glass of water.
- Benzphetamine is usually taken one to three times a day, before meals, on an empty stomach. Follow your doctor's instructions.
- Do not take benzphetamine in the evening because it may cause insomnia.
- Never take more of this medication than is prescribed for you. Too much benzphetamine could be very dangerous to your health.
- Store benzphetamine at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose or if it is already evening, skip the missed dose and take only your next regularly scheduled dose. A dose taken too late in the day will cause insomnia. Do not take a double dose of this medication.

What happens if I overdose?

-Seek emergency medical attention.
-Symptoms of a benzphetamine overdose include restlessness, tremor, rapid breathing, confusion, hallucinations, panic, aggressiveness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, an irregular heartbeat and seizures.

What should I avoid while taking benzphetamine?

-Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. Benzphetamine may cause dizziness, blurred vision or restlessness, and it may hide the symptoms of extreme tiredness. If you experience these effects then avoid hazardous activities.
-Do not take benzphetamine late in the day. A dose taken too late in the day can cause insomnia.

What are the possible side effects of benzphetamine?

If you experience any of the following serious side effects, stop taking benzphetamine and seek emergency medical attention:

-an allergic reaction could be: difficulty breathing, closing of your throat, swelling of your lips, tongue or face even hives
-an irregular heartbeat or very high blood pressure (severe headache, blurred vision)
-or other, less serious side effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take benzphetamine and talk to your doctor if you experience

* restlessness or tremor	* anxiety or nervousness
* headache or dizziness	* insomnia
* dry mouth or an unpleasant taste in your mouth	* diarrhea or constipation
* impotence or changes in your sex drive	

Benzphetamine is habit forming. You can become physically and psychologically dependent on this medication, and withdrawal effects may occur if you stop taking it suddenly after several weeks of continuous use. Talk to your doctor about stopping this medication gradually.

Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

What other drugs will affect benzphetamine?

You cannot take benzphetamine if you have taken a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) such as isocarboxazid (Marplan), tranylcypromine (Parnate), or phenelzine (Nardil) in the last 14 days.

-Changes in insulin and other diabetes drug therapies may be necessary during treatment with benzphetamine.
-Benzphetamine may reduce the effects of guanethidine (Ismelin). This could lead to an increase in blood pressure. Tell your doctor if you are taking guanethidine.
-Before taking this medication, tell your doctor if you are taking a tricyclic antidepressant such as amitriptyline (Elavil), amoxapine (Asendin), doxepin (Sinequan), nortriptyline (Pamelor), imipramine (Tofranil), clomipramine (Anafranil), protriptyline (Vivactil), or desipramine (Norpramin). These drugs may decrease the effects of benzphetamine.
- Drugs other than those listed here may also interact with benzphetamine. Talk to your doctor and pharmacist before taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicines.

Where can I get more information?

Your pharmacist has more information about benzphetamine written for health professionals that you may read.