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2. Desmopressin

Desmopressin

Generic name: desmopressin (oral/sublingual) [*DEZ-mo-press-in*]

Brand names: DDAVP, Nocdurna

Dosage forms: oral tablet (0.1 mg; 0.2 mg), sublingual tablet (27.7 mcg; 55.3 mcg)

Drug class: [Antidiuretic hormones](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Jan 14, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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What is desmopressin?

Desmopressin is used to treat nighttime bed-wetting, [central diabetes insipidus](#), and increased thirst and urination caused by head surgery or head trauma.

Desmopressin is a man-made form of a hormone that occurs naturally in the pituitary gland and regulates how the body uses water.

Desmopressin may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Desmopressin side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Desmopressin may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- **low levels of sodium in the body**--headache, confusion, hallucinations, muscle cramps, severe weakness, vomiting, loss of coordination, feeling restless or unsteady;
- flushing (sudden warmth, redness, or tingly feeling);
- swelling, weight gain;
- a seizure;
- weak or shallow breathing; or
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out.

Serious side effects may be more likely in older adults.

Common side effects of desmopressin may include:

- headache;
- dizziness;
- [dry mouth](#);
- nausea; or
- mild stomach pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Desmopressin side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

You should not use desmopressin if you have severe kidney disease or [hyponatremia](#) (low sodium levels in your body).

You also should not take **Nocdurna** if you have severe thirst, uncontrolled hypertension, [heart failure](#), high levels of a hormone that causes [fluid retention](#), or if you take a diuretic or use steroid medication.

Limit your intake of water and other fluids while you are using desmopressin. Drinking too much water may lead to a serious, life-threatening electrolyte imbalance.

Call your doctor right away if you have **signs of low sodium**: headache, confusion, muscle cramps, severe weakness, vomiting, loss of coordination, and feeling restless or unsteady.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use desmopressin if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- severe kidney disease; or
- hyponatremia (low sodium levels in your body).

You also should not take **Nocdurna** sublingual desmopressin if you have:

- a disease or psychologic disorder that causes extreme or unusual thirst;
- syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH, high levels of a hormone that causes fluid retention);
- severe or uncontrolled [high blood pressure](#);
- heart failure; or
- if you take a diuretic ("water pill") or use a steroid medicine (oral, nasal, inhaled, or injectable).

Desmopressin is not approved to treat bed-wetting in a child younger than 6 years old. **Nocdurna** is not approved for use in anyone younger than 18 years old.

Do not give desmopressin to a child for any reason without medical advice.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- an electrolyte imbalance;
- unusual thirst;
- fluid retention;
- congestive heart failure, [coronary artery disease](#);
- high blood pressure;
- urination problems;
- kidney disease; or
- [cystic fibrosis](#).

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

How should I take desmopressin?

Your doctor may perform blood tests to make sure you do not have conditions that would prevent you from safely using desmopressin.

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Limit your intake of water and other fluids while you are using desmopressin. Drinking too much water may lead to a serious, life-threatening electrolyte imbalance.

Fluid restriction is especially important in children and older adults using desmopressin. Follow your doctor's instructions about the type and amount of liquids you should drink.

If you were switched from desmopressin nasal spray to desmopressin tablets, wait at least 12 hours after your last nasal dose before you take your first tablet.

Take the **sublingual tablet** 1 hour before bedtime. Place the tablet under your tongue and allow it to dissolve. Empty your bladder before going to bed.

Your blood pressure will need to be checked often and you may need frequent blood tests.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, light, and heat.

Store [Nocdurna](#) tablets in their original foil blister pack. Remove a tablet only when you are ready to take it.

 [Detailed Desmopressin dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include headache, confusion, [drowsiness](#), rapid weight gain, or urination problems.

What should I avoid while taking desmopressin?

While treating nighttime bed-wetting, avoid drinking anything within 1 hour before your bedtime dose of desmopressin. Do not drink anything until the next morning, or at least 8 hours after you have taken the medicine.

Avoid coffee, tea, cola, energy drinks, or other sources of [caffeine](#) before bedtime.

Also avoid drinking alcohol before bedtime.

What other drugs will affect desmopressin?

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines. Many drugs can affect desmopressin, especially:

- an antidepressant;
- opioid pain medication;
- seizure medication;
- **NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)**--aspirin, [ibuprofen](#) (Advil, Motrin), [naproxen](#) (Aleve), [celecoxib](#), [diclofenac](#), [indomethacin](#), [meloxicam](#), and others.

This list is not complete and many other drugs may affect desmopressin. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Desmopressin drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does desmopressin interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

+

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Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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Availability		
Rx	Prescription only	
Pregnancy & Lactation		
	Risk data available	
CSA Schedule*		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
Approval History		
	Drug history at FDA	▼
WADA Class		
	Anti-Doping Classification	▼

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