



[Home](#)

2. Methyldopa

# Methyldopa

**Generic name:** methyldopa [ *METH-il-DOE-pa* ]

**Brand name:** [Aldomet](#)

**Dosage form:** oral tablet (250 mg; 500 mg)

**Drug class:** [Antiadrenergic agents, centrally acting](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 9, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#)   [Side effects](#)   [Warnings](#)   [Before taking](#)   [Dosage](#)   [Interactions](#)

## What is methyldopa?

Methyldopa lowers blood pressure by decreasing the levels of certain chemicals in your blood. This allows your blood vessels (veins and arteries) to relax (widen).

Methyldopa is used to treat hypertension ([high blood pressure](#)).

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

## Methyldopa 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.

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

- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- pale or yellowed skin, dark colored urine, fever, confusion or weakness;
- uncontrolled or involuntary muscle movements;
- **heart problems**--swelling, rapid weight gain, feeling short of breath; or
- **signs of liver or pancreas problems**--loss of appetite, upper stomach pain (that may spread to your back), nausea or vomiting, [fast heart rate](#), dark urine, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

**Common side effects of methyldopa may include:**

- [drowsiness](#);
- weakness; or
- headache.

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.

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

## Related/similar drugs

### Vasotec

Vasotec (enalapril) is used to treat high blood pressure, heart failure and kidney problems caused ...

#### Reviews & ratings

[4 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

#### FEATURED

### Repatha

Repatha (evolocumab) is a PCSK9 inhibitor used to lower high cholesterol alongside dietary changes ...

#### Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[685 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Lisinopril

Lisinopril is an ACE inhibitor. It is used to treat high blood pressure, congestive heart failure ...

#### Reviews & ratings

5.0 / 10

[626 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Atenolol

Atenolol is used to treat angina (chest pain) and hypertension (high blood pressure). Learn about ...

#### Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

[276 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Hydrochlorothiazide

HCTZ (hydrochlorothiazide) used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension) and edema. Includes ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.2 / 10

[185 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Warnings

You should not use methyldopa if you have [liver disease](#) (especially cirrhosis), or a history of liver problems caused by taking methyldopa.

**Do not use methyldopa if you have used an MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days**, such as [isocarboxazid](#), [linezolid](#), [methylene blue](#) injection, [phenelzine](#), [rasagiline](#), [selegiline](#), or [tranylcypromine](#).

## Before taking this medicine

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

- liver disease (especially cirrhosis); or
- a history of liver problems caused by taking methyldopa.

**Do not use methyldopa if you have used a MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days.** A dangerous [drug interaction](#) could occur. MAO inhibitors include isocarboxazid, linezolid, methylene blue injection, phenelzine, rasagiline, selegiline, tranylcypromine, and others.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- liver disease;
- kidney disease (or if you are on dialysis);
- [heart disease](#), angina (chest pain); or
- a [heart attack](#) or stroke.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known whether methyldopa will harm an unborn baby. However, having high blood pressure during pregnancy may cause complications such as diabetes or eclampsia (dangerously high blood pressure that can lead to medical problems in both mother and baby). The benefit of treating hypertension may outweigh any risks to the baby.

It may not be safe to breast-feed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk.

## How should I take methyldopa?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Your blood pressure will need to be checked often. Your liver function may also need to be checked.

**Keep using methyldopa as directed, even if you feel well.** High blood pressure often has no symptoms. You may need to use blood pressure medicine for the rest of your life.

Methyldopa can affect the results of certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using methyldopa.

If you need surgery or a [blood transfusion](#), tell your caregivers ahead of time that you are using methyldopa.

Methyldopa doses are based on weight in children. Your child's dose needs may change if the child gains or loses weight.

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

## Methyldopa dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose for Hypertension:

Initial dose: 250 mg orally 2-3 times a day or 250 to 500 mg IV over 30 to 60 minutes every 6 hours, up to a maximum of 3 g/day.

Maintenance dose: 500 mg to 2 g orally divided in 2 to 4 doses, up to a maximum of 3 g/day.

### Usual Adult Dose for Hypertensive Emergency:

250 to 500 mg IV over 30 to 60 minutes every 6 hours up to a maximum of 1 g every 6 hours or 4 g/day. Switch to the oral route at the same dosage once blood pressure is under control.

 [Detailed Methyldopa 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 extreme drowsiness, vomiting, slow heartbeats, or fainting.

## What should I avoid while taking methyldopa?

Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy.

## What other drugs will affect methyldopa?

Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use, especially:

- [ferrous gluconate](#), [ferrous sulfate](#), or other medicine that contains iron;
- lithium; or
- any other blood pressure medications.

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

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

## Does methyldopa interact with my other drugs?

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

methyldopa

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## More about methyldopa

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(13\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: antiadrenergic agents, centrally acting](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

- [Methyldopa advanced reading](#)
- [Methyldopa Tablets](#)

## Other brands

Professional resources

- [Methyldopa monograph](#)
- [Methyldopa \(FDA\)](#)

Related treatment guides

- [High Blood Pressure](#)
- [Hypertensive Emergency](#)

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

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 10.01.

DRUG STATUS

Availability	
Rx	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
	Drug history at FDA

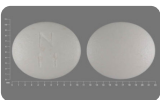
User Reviews & Ratings

7.4 / 10

[13 Reviews](#)

Images

[Methyldopa 250 mg \(N 11\)](#)



[View larger images](#)

# Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



## About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

## Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

## Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

**Drugs.com** provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices  
ADVERTISEMENT

Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.

