

METHYLDOPA:

Class: Alpha₂-Adrenergic Agonist
Indications: Management of moderate-to-severe hypertension
Available dosage form in the hospital: 250MG TAB
Trade Names:
Dosage:

Hypertension:

- Oral:* Initial: 250 mg 2-3 times/day; increase every 2 days as needed (maximum dose: 3 g/day); usual dose range (JNC 7): 250-1000 mg/day in 2 divided doses. **Note:** When administered with other antihypertensives other than thiazide diuretics, limit initial daily dose of methyldopa to 500 mg/day.
- I.V.:* 250-1000 mg every 6-8 hours; maximum: 1 g every 6 hours.

Geriatric

Refer to adult dosing. Initiate at the lower end of the dosage range.

Renal Impairment:

No dosage adjustment provided in manufacturer's labeling; however, the following adjustments have been recommended (Aronoff, 2007):

- Cl_{cr} >50 mL/minute: Administer every 8 hours.
- Cl_{cr} 10-50 mL/minute: Administer every 8-12 hours.
- Cl_{cr} <10 mL/minute: Administer every 12-24 hours.
- Intermittent hemodialysis (administer after hemodialysis on dialysis days): Moderately dialyzable (up to 60% with a 6-hour session) (Yeh, 1970).
- Peritoneal dialysis (PD): Administer every 12-24 hours.
- Continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT): Administer every 8-12 hours. **Note:** Use of antihypertensives in patients requiring CRRT is generally not recommended since CRRT is typically employed when patient cannot tolerate intermittent hemodialysis due to hypotension.

Hepatic Impairment:

Use is contraindicated in patients with active hepatic disease.

Common side effect:

Cardiovascular: Angina pectoris aggravation, bradycardia, carotid sinus hypersensitivity prolonged, heart failure, myocarditis, orthostatic hypotension, paradoxical pressor response (I.V. use), pericarditis, peripheral edema, symptoms of cerebrovascular insufficiency, vasculitis
Central nervous system: Bell's palsy, dizziness, drug fever, headache, lightheadedness, mental acuity decreased, mental depression, nightmares, parkinsonism, sedation
Dermatologic: Rash, toxic epidermal necrolysis
Endocrine & metabolic: Amenorrhea, breast enlargement, gynecomastia, hyperprolactinemia, lactation, libido decreased
Gastrointestinal: Abdominal distension, colitis, constipation, diarrhea, flatulence, nausea, pancreatitis, sialadenitis, sore or "black" tongue, vomiting, weight gain, xerostomia
Genitourinary: Impotence
Hematologic: Bone marrow suppression, eosinophilia, granulocytopenia, hemolytic anemia; positive tests for ANA, LE cells, rheumatoid factor, Coombs test (positive); leukopenia, thrombocytopenia
Hepatic: Abnormal LFTs, liver disorders (hepatitis), jaundice
Neuromuscular & skeletal: Arthralgia, choreoathetosis, myalgia, paresthesias, weakness
Renal: BUN increased
Respiratory: Nasal congestion
Miscellaneous: SLE-like syndrome

Pregnancy Risk Factor: B/C (injectable)