



Drug Information Center

King Abdullah Hospital

Oral Dosage Forms That Should Not Be Crushed

Disclaimer: This listing is not meant to represent all products generic name. The author encourages manufacturers, pharmacists, nurses, and other health Professionals to notify him of any changes or updates.

Active Ingredient(s)	Dosage Form(s)	Reasons/Comments ³
acetaminophen	Tablet	Slow-release
albuterol ER	Tablet	Extended-release
alfuzosin	Tablet	Slow-release
ALPRAZolam	Tablet	Extended-release
ALPRAZolam XR	Tablet	Extended-release
amoxicillin	Tablet	Slow-release
amphetamine salts	Capsule	Extended-release (a)
aspirin	Tablet, Caplet	Delayed-release; Enteric-coated
atomoxetine	Capsule	Note: capsule contents can cause ocular irritation
bisacodyl	Tablet	Enteric-coated (c)
budesonide	Capsule	Extended-release; Enteric-coated (a)
budesonide	Tablet	Note: coating on tablet is designed to break down at pH of 7.0 or above
buPROPion	Tablet	Extended-release
carBAMazepine	Capsule	Slow-release (a)
carvedilol	Capsule	Extended-release (a) Note: may add contents of capsule to chilled, not warm, applesauce and consumed immediately
cefuroxime	Tablet	Taste (b) Note: use suspension for children
charcoal, activated	Tablet	Enteric-coated

cinacalcet	Tablet	Note: tablets are not scored and cutting may cause variable dosage accuracy
ciprofloxacin	Tablet	Extended-release (b)
clarithromycin	Tablet	Extended-release
cloNIDine	Tablet	Slow-release
colestipol	Tablet	Slow-release
Creon pancrelipase	Capsule	Extended-release (a)
cyclobenzaprine	Capsule	Slow-release
cyclophosphamide	Tablet	Note: drug may be crushed but company recommends using injection
dabigatran	Capsule	Note: bioavailability increases by 75% when the pellets are taken without the capsule shell
dalfampridine	Tablet	Extended-release
dasatinib	Tablet	Film-coated Note: active ingredients are surrounded by a wax matrix to prevent healthcare exposure; women who are, or may become, pregnant, should not handle crushed or broken tablets
deferasirox	Tablet	Note: do not give as tablet; tablets are meant to be given as a liquid; see company insert.
dexmethylphenidate	Capsule	Slow-release (a)
diclofenac	Tablet	Delayed-release; Enteric-coated
didanosine	Capsule	Slow-release
diltiazem	Tablet	Note: the drug has a coating that is intended to release the drug over approximately 3 hours. also , others are extended realease.
diltiazem	Capsule	Extended-release
diltiazem (ER)	Capsule	Extended-release (a)
disopyramide (CR)	Capsule	Extended-release form within a special capsule

Divalproex * Depakene * Depakote * Depakote ER	Capsule Tablet Tablet	*Slow-release; mucous membrane irritant (b) *Delayed-release *Extended-release
docusate	Capsule	Taste (e)
donepezil	Tablet	Note: crushing the 23 mg tablet may significantly increase the rate of absorption; the 5 and 10 mg tablet are not affected
doxazosin	Tablet	Extended-release
doxycycline	Capsule	slow-release
DULoxetine	Capsule	Slow-release (a) Note: may add contents of capsule to apple juice or applesauce but NOT chocolate
dutasteride	Capsule	Note: drug may cause fetal abnormalities; women who are, or may become, pregnant, should not handle capsules; all women should use caution in handling capsules, especially leaking capsules.
dutasteride / tamsulosin	Capsule	Note: women who are, or may become, pregnant, should not handle crushed or broken tablets (I)
ergocalciferol	Capsule	Liquid filled (d)
ergotamine	Tablet	Sublingual form (g)
erythromycin	Tablet	Enteric-coated (b) or delayed release .
esomeprazole (NexIUM)	Capsule	Slow-release (a)
etravirine	Tablet	Note: tablet should be swallowed whole and not crushed; tablet may be dispersed in water
everolimus	Tablet	Mucous membrane irritant
everolimus	Tablet	Note: crushed powder may cause

		dangerous effects to mucus membranes
fenofibric	Capsule	Extended-release
fentaNYL	Lozenge	Slow-release Note: this lollipop delivery system requires the patient to slowly dissolve in mouth
fentaNYL	Tablet	Note: buccal tablet; swallow whole
ferrous gluconate	Tablet	Enteric-coated
ferrous sulfate	Tablet	Enteric-coated (b)
finasteride	Tablet	Note: women who are, or may become, pregnant, should not handle crushed or broken tablets
fluvastatin	Tablet	Extended-release
fluvoxaMINE	Capsule	Extended-release
gabapentin	Tablet	Slow-release
galantamine	Capsule	Extended-release
ganciclovir	Capsule	Skin irritant
glipiZIDE (ER)	Tablet	Extended-release
GuaiFENesin/Pseudoephedrine	Tablet	Extended-release
guanFACINE	Tablet	Slow-release
HYDROmorphone	Tablet	Slow-release Note: breaking, chewing, crushing, dissolving before swallowing or injecting could result in overdose
hydroxyurea	Capsule	Note: exposure to the powder may cause serious skin toxicities; healthcare workers should wear gloves to administer
hyoscyamine	Tablet	Slow-release or extended release.
ibandronate	Tablet	Note: chewed, crushed, or sucked tablets may cause oropharyngeal irritation
ibuprofen	Tablet	Taste (e)
imatinib	Tablet	Taste (h) Note: may be dissolved in water or apple juice
indinavir	Capsule	Taste Note: capsule may be

		opened and mixed with fruit puree (e.g., banana)
indomethacin	Capsule	Slow-release (a,b)
isosorbide Isosorbide SR	Capsule Tablet	Extended-release Extended-release
IsosorbideDinitrate Sublingual	Tablet (sublingual)	Tablets are made to disintegrate under the tongue.
ISOTretinoin	Capsule	Mucous membrane irritant
isradipine	Tablet	Extended-release
lamoTRIGine (XR)	Tablet	Extended-release
lansoprazole	1-Capsule 2-Tablet	1-Slow-release 2-Note: Orally disintegrating do not swallow; dissolve in water only and dispense via dosing syringe or NG tube
levETIRAcetam (keppra EX)	Tablet	Extended-release (b)
levo/carbidopa (Sinemet CR)	Tablet	Extended-release (h)
lithium	Tablet	Extended-release
lopinavir/ritoavir	Tablet	Film-coated (b) Note: active ingredients are surrounded by a wax matrix to prevent healthcare exposure; women who are, or may become, pregnant, should not handle crushed or broken tablets
lovastatin	Tablet	Extended-release
lubiprostone	Capsule	Slow-release
Memantine XR	Capsule	Extended-release (a)
mesalamine	Capsule	Extended-release (a) Note: maintain pH at less than or equal to 6.0
mesalamine	Tablet Capsule (pentasa)	Slow-release Slow-release
metFORMIN (ER) as Glucophage XR	Tablet	Extended-release
methylphenidate	Tablet	Extended-release
methylphenidate	Tablet,capsule	Extended-release
metronidazole (falgyl ER)	Tablet	Extended-release.
morphine	Capsule	Enteric-coated (a; not

		pudding)
morphine sulfate	Capsule	Extended-release (a); do not give via N/G tube
mycophenolate	Capsule, Tablet	Teratogenic potential (i)
mycophenolate	Tablet	Delayed-release
naproxen	Tablet	Extended-release
niCARdipine	Capsule	Extended-release
nicotine	Lozenge	Note: integrity compromised by chewing or Crushing
nicotinic acid	Tablet	slow-release
NIFEdipine	Tablet	Extended-release
NIFEdipine (XR)	Tablet	Extended-release
nitroglycerin	Tablet	Sublingual route (g)
omeprazole	Tablet , Capsule	slow-release (a)
oxyCODONE	Tablet	Extended-release Note: tablet disruption may cause a potentially fatal overdose of oxyCODONE
oxymorphone ER	Tablet	Extended-release
pancrelipase	Capsule	Enteric-coated (a)
pantoprazole	Tablet	Extended-release
PARoxetine CR	Tablet	Extended-release
piroxicam	Capsule	Mucous membrane irritant
potassium bicarbonate	Tablet	Effervescent tablet (f)
praziquantel	Tablet	Taste (h)
predniSONE (DR) Delayed-release	Tablet	Note: release is dependent upon intact coating.
propafenone (SR)	Capsule	Extended-release
propranolol	Capsule	Extended-release
QUetiapine XR	Tablet	Extended-release
RABEprazole	Tablet	Extended-release
raloxifene	Tablet	Taste; teratogenic potential (i)
risedronate	Tablet	Irritant Note: chewed, crushed, or sucked tablets may cause oropharyngeal irritation
rOPINIRole (ER)	Tablet	Extended-release
sevelamer	Tablet	Note: tablets expand in liquid if broken or crushed

sirolimus	Tablet	Note: pharmacokinetic NanoCrystal technology may be affected (b)
(sitaGLIPtin/ metFORMIN)ER	Tablet	Extended-release
sulfaSALazine	Tablet	Delayed-release
tamsulosin	Capsule	Slow-release
telithromycin	Tablet	Slow-release (b)
theophylline	Capsule Tablet	*Extended-release Note: contains beads that dissolve throughout the GI tract * Slow-release
tipranavir	Capsule	Note: oil emulsion within spheres; taste
topiramate	Tablet; Capsule	Taste; Taste (a)
traMADol	Tablet	Extended-release Note: crushing may cause overdose
valGANCiclovir	Tablet	Teratogenic and irritant potential (i,b)
venlafaxine	Capsule	Extended-release
verapamil	Tablet	Extended-release (h)
zolipidem	Tablet	Extended-release

Note:

(a) Capsule may be opened and the contents taken without crushing or chewing; soft food such as applesauce or pudding may facilitate administration; contents may Generally be administered via nasogastric tube using an appropriate fluid provided entire contents are washed down the tube.

(b) Liquid dosage forms of the product are available; however, dose, frequency of administration and manufacturers may differ from that of the solid dosage form.

(c) Antacids and/or milk may prematurely dissolve the coating of the tablet.

(d) Capsule may be opened and the liquid contents removed for administration.

(e) The taste of this product form would likely be unacceptable to the patient; administration via nasogastric tube should be acceptable.

(f) Effervescent tablets must be dissolved in the amount of diluent recommended by the manufacturer.

(g) Tablets are made to disintegrate under the tongue.

(h) Tablet is scored and may be broken in half without affecting release characteristics.

(i) Skin contact may enhance tumor production; avoid direct contact.

Reference:

Oral Dosage Forms That Should Not Be Crushed, John F Mitchell, PharmD,
<https://www.ismp.org/tools/DoNotCrush.pdf> , access date 5,11,2013 , from institution for
safe medication practices.

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Reviewed by:

Pharm-D, Neda' Rawshdeh (the supervisor of the DIC)

Pharm-D , Bayan Ababneh