

EVIDENCE SUMMARY

DEXTROAMPHETAMINE SULFATE (DEXEDRINE® SPANSULE) FOR THE TREATMENT OF STIMULANT USE DISORDER

Palis H, Macdonald S, Oviedo-Joekes E

TREATMENT FOR STIMULANT USE DISORDER

- There is a need to identify safe alternatives for cocaine and methamphetamine use.^{1,2,3}
- While psychosocial treatments may reduce stimulant use, a pharmacological alternative could help maintain positive outcomes longer term.⁴
- Several studies have tested the feasibility, safety, and effectiveness of various psychostimulants as treatment options.^{5,6}

EVIDENCE FOR DEXTROAMPHETAMINE

- Dextroamphetamine has shown promise; compared to placebo, it may improve retention^{7,8} and reduce stimulant use,^{8,9,10} withdrawal, and cravings.^{10,11}
- In the injectable opioid agonist treatment (iOAT) setting, a study of patients receiving diacetylmorphine showed that dextroamphetamine is a safe and effective treatment for cocaine use disorder, with no serious adverse events.¹²
- Work to further explore the role of dextroamphetamine in iOAT is ongoing, supported by the Providence Health Care Knowledge Translation Challenge.¹³

CROSSTOWN CLINIC EXPERIENCE

- Dextroamphetamine is indicated for the treatment of narcolepsy and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and is prescribed off-label to patients at Crosstown Clinic for the treatment of stimulant use disorder.
- Patients receive sustained release oral dextroamphetamine capsules up to 60 mg per day twice a day; most patients take a lower dose. Doses are taken at the on-site pharmacy.
- Consistent with other findings, Crosstown Clinic patients that have maintained this treatment report reduced cravings for and use of cocaine and/or methamphetamine.

▲
**Dextroamphetamine
is a safe and
effective treatment
for stimulant use
disorder**
▼

PATIENT AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Dextroamphetamine is a safe medication; studies show very low rates of adverse events^{7,8,9,11,12} and no concern regarding medication diversion,¹⁴ suggesting that this treatment should be promoted among patients with stimulant use disorder.