

## **CONCERTA® (methylphenidate HCl ER) Dosing - Crushing, Chewing, or Splitting of CONCERTA**

### **SUMMARY**

- CONCERTA (methylphenidate HCl extended-release [MPH ER]) tablets must be swallowed whole with the aid of liquids and must not be chewed, divided, or crushed.<sup>1</sup>
- Crushing, chewing, or splitting CONCERTA tablets will compromise the delivery system, resulting in an unknown pharmacokinetic profile for the damaged tablet.
- There is no sudden release of the entire MPH dose even if it is highly disrupted (ie, chewed or crushed).<sup>2</sup>

### **PRODUCT LABELING**

Please refer to the following sections of the enclosed Full Prescribing Information that are relevant to your inquiry<sup>1</sup>: DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, General Dosing Information; DESCRIPTION, System Components and Performance; and PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION.

### **BACKGROUND**

The CONCERTA formulation uses osmotic pressure to deliver MPH in a controlled manner.<sup>1</sup> Although CONCERTA resembles a conventional tablet in appearance, it should under no circumstances be crushed, chewed, or split in order to ease administration or to divide doses. Crushing, chewing or splitting CONCERTA tablets will compromise the delivery system resulting in an unknown pharmacokinetic profile for the damaged tablet.

In CONCERTA tablets, the core MPH is mixed with a high molecular weight polymer.<sup>2</sup> When a crushed tablet is mixed with water or other aqueous solutions, the tablet forms a gel. This is the reason why, under normal circumstances, the MPH in the CONCERTA tablet core is very difficult to extract. Therefore, there is no sudden release of the entire MPH dose even if it is highly disrupted (ie, chewed or crushed).

### **LITERATURE SEARCH**

A literature search of MEDLINE®, Embase®, BIOSIS Previews®, and Derwent Drug File (and/or other resources, including internal/external databases) pertaining to this topic was conducted on 05 February 2025.

### **REFERENCES**

1. CONCERTA (methylphenidate HCl) [Prescribing Information]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc; [https://imedicalknowledge.veevavault.com/ui/approved\\_viewer?token=7994-edb60a5a-a794-4ed6-b7ab-758d0aa94194](https://imedicalknowledge.veevavault.com/ui/approved_viewer?token=7994-edb60a5a-a794-4ed6-b7ab-758d0aa94194).
2. Ciccone PE. Attempted abuse of CONCERTA. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2002;41(7):756.