

Table 1

Medical complications of stimulant use

Organ system	Acute	Chronic
Nervous system	Agitation	Psychotic symptoms, mood disorders
	Hallucinations, esp. tactile	Cerebrovascular disease/stroke
	Dyskinesia	Cognitive impairment
	Cognitive impairment	Movement disorders, e.g., dystonic reactions, akathisia, choreoathetosis, tardive dyskinesia
Cardiovascular system	Tachycardia	Malignant hypertension
	Hypertension	Myocarditis
	Coronary artery vasospasm	Cardiomyopathy
	Myocardial infarction	Pulmonary hypertension
	Arrhythmias	Accelerated atherosclerosis
	Thoracic aortic dissection	Acute coronary syndrome
Pulmonary	Cough, shortness of breath	Interstitial pneumonitis
	Reactive airways disease	Bronchiolitis obliterans
	Pulmonary edema, hemorrhage	Pulmonary hypertension
	Pneumothorax	
Renal	Acute renal failure	Renal ischemia
		Glomerulonephritis
		Chronic renal failure
Gastrointestinal	Reduced gastric motility GI bleeding	Gastric ulceration and perforation
		Intestinal infarction
		Ischemic colitis
Liver		Viral hepatitis and HIV
Endocrine	Reduced prolactin	Inc, normal or dec. prolactin
	Increased epinephrine, CRH, ACTH, cortisol and LH	Normal testosterone, cortisol, LH, thyroid hormones
Musculoskeletal	Movement disorders (see CNS)	Rhabdomyolysis
Head and neck	Rhinitis	Rhinitis, sinusitis
		Perforated nasal septum
		Nasal and gingival ulceration
		Dental decay and periodontal disease
		Xerostomia
		Corneal ulcers
Immune system		Vasculitis syndromes
Sexual function		Erectile dysfunction
		Irregular menses
		FDA category C
Reproductive	Vaginal bleeding	Placenta previa
	Abruption placenta	Low birth weight
	Premature rupture of membranes	Skin and soft tissue infections
Dermatologic		
General/other	Dehydration	Weight loss

Organ system	Acute	Chronic
	Hyperthermia	Nutritional deficits

References:23,27,32,37,45,104

Abbreviations: CRH, corticotropin-releasing hormone; ACTH, adrenocorticotrophic hormone; LH, luteinizing hormone

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