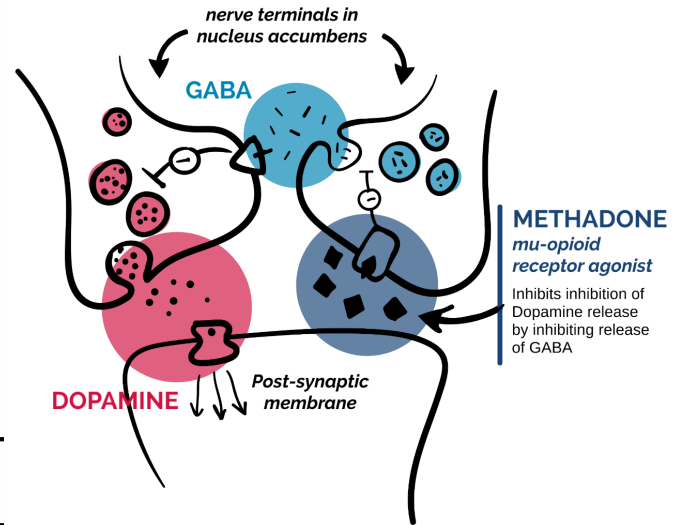


METHADONE Fast Facts

Methadone is a long-acting full agonist & when taken as prescribed, is clinically safe & effective for patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). All three FDA-approved Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) bind to mu-opioid receptors in the CNS & PNS, GI tract, & vascular system.

Mechanism of Action

In the brain, mu-opioid receptors mediate opioids' analgesic & other effects incl. euphoria, respiratory depression, & meiosis. Through modulation of mu-opioid receptor activity in the brain, MOUD exert therapeutic efficacy in treating OUD. The amount of intrinsic activity corresponds to the amount of opioid receptor agonist effects.



Important Information



- Often appropriate for OUD patients who are physiologically dependent on opioids & who have met federal criteria for Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) admission
- Effective in suppressing illicit opioid use, & overdose mortality is lower for people in Tx than for people not in Tx



- Currently only offered in OTPs & can only be ordered by OTP physicians; however, nurses & pharmacists can administer & dispense it
- Administered orally & withdrawal symptoms are present when discontinued & heightened when discontinued abruptly



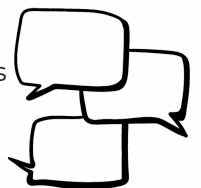
- Rare that patients experience medication-induced respiratory depression, but can be present within the first two weeks
- Federal restrictions have been temporarily lifted & allow patients to take home larger quantities at a time; studies show this has increased Tx engagement

References & Resources

SAMHSA: [MOUD TIP #63](#)
SAMHSA: [MAT in Emergency Departments](#)
AJDAA: [Methadone Study \(October 2021\)](#)

24/7 MAT Provider Hotline

TEXT or call 844.HELP.OUD (844.435.7683) for in the moment advice from multidisciplinary experts for providers who have any clinical questions about using MAT incl. MOUD for specific patients



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