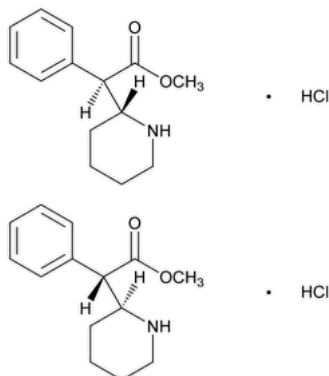


Status: Currently Official on 15-Feb-2025  
 Official Date: Official as of 01-Jun-2023  
 Document Type: USP Monographs  
 DocId: GUID-2CAC54F6-0A79-40EA-8230-B60ED841D359\_8\_en-US  
 DOI: [https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF\\_M52700\\_08\\_01](https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF_M52700_08_01)  
 DOI Ref: kps1o

© 2025 USPC  
 Do not distribute

# Methylphenidate Hydrochloride



$C_{14}H_{19}NO_2 \cdot HCl$  269.77  
 2-Piperidineacetic acid,  $\alpha$ -phenyl-, methyl ester, hydrochloride, ( $R^*,R^*$ )-(±)-;  
 Methyl  $\alpha$ -phenyl-2-piperidineacetate hydrochloride;  
 (RS)-Methyl-2-phenyl-2-[(RS)-piperidin-2-yl] acetate, hydrochloride CAS RN®: 23655-65-4; UNII: 4B3SC438HI.

## DEFINITION

Methylphenidate Hydrochloride contains NLT 98.0% and NMT 102.0% of methylphenidate hydrochloride ( $C_{14}H_{19}NO_2 \cdot HCl$ ), calculated on the dried basis.

## IDENTIFICATION

- **A. SPECTROSCOPIC IDENTIFICATION TESTS (197), Infrared Spectroscopy:** 197M
- **B. IDENTIFICATION TESTS—GENERAL (191), Chemical Identification Tests, Chloride:** Meets the requirements
- **C.** The retention time of the major peak of the *Sample solution* corresponds to that of the *Standard solution*, as obtained in the Assay.

## ASSAY

### PROCEDURE

**Buffer:** 2.7 g/L of [monobasic potassium phosphate](#)

**Mobile phase:** [Methanol](#) and *Buffer* (1:2). Adjust with [phosphoric acid](#) to a pH of  $4.6 \pm 0.1$ .

**System suitability solution:** 0.005 mg/mL of [USP Methylphenidate Related Compound A RS](#) and 0.5 mg/mL of [USP Methylphenidate Hydrochloride RS](#) in *Mobile phase*

**Standard solution:** 0.5 mg/mL of [USP Methylphenidate Hydrochloride RS](#) in *Mobile phase*

**Sample solution:** 0.5 mg/mL of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride in *Mobile phase*

### Chromatographic system

(See [Chromatography \(621\), System Suitability](#).)

**Mode:** LC

**Detector:** UV 209 nm

**Column:** 4.6-mm  $\times$  25-cm; 5- $\mu$ m packing [L1](#)

**Flow rate:** 1.0 mL/min

**Injection volume:** 10  $\mu$ L

**Run time:** NLT 2 times the retention time of methylphenidate

### System suitability

**Sample:** *System suitability solution*

### Suitability requirements

**Resolution:** NLT 2.5 between methylphenidate related compound A and methylphenidate

**Tailing factor:** NMT 3.0 for methylphenidate

**Relative standard deviation:** NMT 2.0% for methylphenidate

### Analysis

**Samples:** *Standard solution* and *Sample solution*

Calculate the percentage of methylphenidate hydrochloride ( $C_{14}H_{19}NO_2 \cdot HCl$ ) in the portion of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride taken:

Result =  $(r_U/r_S) \times (C_S/C_U) \times 100$

$r_U$  = peak response from the *Sample solution*

$r_S$  = peak response from the *Standard solution*

$C_S$  = concentration of [USP Methylphenidate Hydrochloride RS](#) in the *Standard solution* (mg/mL)

$C_U$  = concentration of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride in the *Sample solution* (mg/mL)

**Acceptance criteria:** 98.0%–102.0% on the dried basis

**IMPURITIES**

• **RESIDUE ON IGNITION (281):** NMT 0.1%

• **ORGANIC IMPURITIES, PROCEDURE 1**

**Buffer, Mobile phase, System suitability solution, Sample solution, Chromatographic system, and System suitability:** Proceed as directed in the Assay.

**Analysis**

**Sample:** *Sample solution*

Identify each impurity using the relative retention times in [Table 1](#).

Calculate the percentage of each impurity in the portion of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride taken:

Result =  $(r_U/r_T) \times 100$

$r_U$  = peak response of each impurity from the *Sample solution*

$r_T$  = sum of the responses of all impurity peaks including the methylphenidate peak from the *Sample solution*

**Acceptance criteria:** See [Table 1](#). The reporting threshold is 0.05%.

**Table 1**

Name	Relative Retention Time	Acceptance Criteria, NMT (%)
Erythro isomer <sup>a</sup>	0.58	0.15
Methylphenidate related compound A	0.85	0.5
Methylphenidate	1.0	—
Any individual unspecified impurity	—	0.10
Total impurities	—	1.0

<sup>a</sup> (RS)-Methyl-2-phenyl-2-[(SR)-piperidin-2-yl] acetate.

• **ORGANIC IMPURITIES, PROCEDURE 2**

[NOTE—Perform this test only if ethylphenidate or *all-rac*-dimethyl 2,2'-(piperidine-1,2-diyl)bis(2-phenylacetate) is a known process impurity.]

**Buffer A:** 5.7 g of [monobasic ammonium phosphate](#) and 1.6 g of [octanesulfonic acid sodium salt](#) in 1 L of [water](#)

**Buffer B:** Add 4 mL of [triethylamine](#) to 1 L of *Buffer A*. Adjust with [phosphoric acid](#) to a pH of 2.9.

**Solution A:** [Acetonitrile](#) and *Buffer B* (14:86)

**Solution B:** [Acetonitrile](#) and *Buffer A* (80:20)

**Mobile phase:** See [Table 2](#).

**Table 2**

Time (min)	Solution A (%)	Solution B (%)
0	90	10
7	65	35
10	50	50

Time (min)	Solution A (%)	Solution B (%)
12	50	50
13	90	10
16	90	10

[NOTE—Equilibration of the chromatographic system at the initial conditions for a minimum of 30 min is recommended before the first injection.]

**System suitability solution:** 0.5 mg/mL of [USP Methylphenidate Hydrochloride RS](#) and 3 µg/mL each of [USP Methylphenidate Related Compound A RS](#), [phenylacetic acid](#), and [USP Methylphenidate Hydrochloride Erythro Isomer Solution RS](#) in *Solution A*

**Standard solution:** 0.5 µg/mL of [USP Methylphenidate Hydrochloride RS](#) in *Solution A*

**Sample solution:** 0.5 mg/mL of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride in *Solution A*. [NOTE—Allow the solution to stand for at least 2 h.]

#### Chromatographic system

(See [Chromatography \(621\), System Suitability](#).)

**Mode:** LC

**Detector:** UV 220 nm

**Column:** 3.9-mm × 15-cm; 5-µm packing [L7](#)

**Column temperature:** 40°

**Flow rate:** 2.8 mL/min

**Injection volume:** 10 µL

#### System suitability

**Sample:** *System suitability solution*

[NOTE—See [Table 3](#) for the relative retention times.]

#### Suitability requirements

**Resolution:** NLT 2.7 between methylphenidate related compound A and phenylacetic acid; NLT 3.6 between phenylacetic acid and erythro isomer

**Tailing factor:** NMT 2.0 for methylphenidate

**Relative standard deviation:** NMT 2.0% for methylphenidate; NMT 5.0% for methylphenidate related compound A, phenylacetic acid, and methylphenidate hydrochloride erythro isomer

#### Analysis

**Samples:** *Standard solution* and *Sample solution*

Calculate the percentage of any individual impurity in the portion of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride taken:

$$\text{Result} = (r_U/r_S) \times (C_S/C_U) \times (1/F) \times 100$$

$r_U$  = peak response of each individual impurity from the *Sample solution*

$r_S$  = peak response of methylphenidate from the *Standard solution*

$C_S$  = concentration of [USP Methylphenidate Hydrochloride RS](#) in the *Standard solution* (mg/mL)

$C_U$  = concentration of Methylphenidate Hydrochloride in the *Sample solution* (mg/mL)

$F$  = relative response factor (see [Table 3](#))

**Acceptance criteria:** See [Table 3](#). The reporting threshold is 0.05%.

**Table 3**

Name	Relative Retention Time	Relative Response Factor	Acceptance Criteria, NMT (%)
Methylphenidate related compound A	0.55	1.1	0.2
Phenylacetic acid	0.67	1.0	0.1
Erythro isomer <sup>a</sup>	0.80	1.0	0.2
Methylphenidate	1.0	—	—

Name	Relative Retention Time	Relative Response Factor	Acceptance Criteria, NMT (%)
Ethylphenidate <sup>b</sup>	1.22	0.9	0.1
Bis-methylphenidate <sup>c</sup>	1.80	2.6	0.1
Any individual unspecified impurity	—	1.0	0.1
Total impurities	—	—	0.5

- <sup>a</sup> (RS)-Methyl-2-phenyl-2-[(SR)-piperidin-2-yl] acetate.  
<sup>b</sup> Ethyl(RS)-2-phenyl-2-[(RS)-piperidin-2-yl]]acetate.  
<sup>c</sup> all-rac-Dimethyl 2,2'-(piperidine-1,2-diyl)bis(2-phenylacetate).

SPECIFIC TESTS

- [Loss on Drying \(731\)](#).

**Analysis:** Dry under vacuum at 60° for 4 h.

**Acceptance criteria:** NMT 0.5%

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **PACKAGING AND STORAGE:** Preserve in well-closed containers.
- **LABELING:** If a test for *Organic Impurities* other than *Procedure 1* is used, then the labeling states the procedure with which the article complies.

**Change to read:**

- [USP REFERENCE STANDARDS \(11\)](#).  
[USP Methylphenidate Hydrochloride RS](#)  
[USP Methylphenidate Hydrochloride Erythro Isomer Solution RS](#)

This solution contains 0.5 mg/mL of methylphenidate hydrochloride erythro isomer in methanol.

[USP Methylphenidate Related Compound A RS](#)

▲(RS)-2-Phenyl-2-[(RS)-piperidin-2-yl]acetic acid hydrochloride.▲ (ERR 1-Jun-2023)  
C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> · HCl                      255.74

**Auxiliary Information** - Please [check for your question in the FAQs](#) before contacting USP.

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
METHYLPHENIDATE HYDROCHLORIDE	<a href="#">Documentary Standards Support</a>	SM42020 Small Molecules 4

**Chromatographic Database Information:** [Chromatographic Database](#)

**Most Recently Appeared In:**  
Pharmacopeial Forum: Volume No. 45(2)

**Current DocID:** GUID-2CAC54F6-0A79-40EA-8230-B60ED841D359\_8\_en-US  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF.M52700.08.01>  
**DOI ref:** [kps1o](#)