

# Medications that can cause False Positives on Hair Follicle Test

If you've taken one of these medications and had what you believe is a false positive test, work with your healthcare provider to see if you can stop taking the medication or cut back on it. Then ask for a confirmatory test or a repeat test.

## 1) Dextromethorphan

**Dextromethorphan** is an active ingredient in Robitussin, Delsym, and other over-the-counter cough suppressants. If you've taken a medication with dextromethorphan in it, your drug screen may be positive for opiates and PCP (phencyclidine).

## 2) Diltiazem

**Diltiazem** (Cardizem) is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure) or to slow your heart rate if you have atrial fibrillation. If you're taking diltiazem, your urine drug screen may test as a false positive for LSD.

## 3) Diphenhydramine

**Diphenhydramine** (Benadryl) is an antihistamine found in allergy medications like Benadryl and sleep aids like Tylenol PM and Advil PM. If you've taken diphenhydramine, your drug screen may show a positive result for opiates, methadone, or PCP.

## 4) Metformin

**Metformin** (Glucophage) is the most commonly prescribed oral medication for diabetes. Taking metformin may result in a positive test for amphetamine or methamphetamine.

## 5) Pseudoephedrine

Used for sinus and nasal congestion, **pseudoephedrine** (Sudafed) can be the cause of false positive tests for amphetamine or methamphetamine.

## 6) Labetalol

**Labetalol** (Trandate) is both an alpha- and beta-blocker drug used for blood pressure control. If you're taking labetalol, you could have a false positive test for amphetamine, methamphetamine, or LSD.

## 7) Methylphenidate

Used to treat ADHD, **methylphenidate** (Ritalin) is a well-known cause of false positive tests for amphetamine or methamphetamine, and LSD.

## 8) Doxylamine

Doxylamine, found in **Unisom** and other over-the-counter sleep aids, may cause a false positive on drug tests for methadone or PCP.

## 9) Tramadol

**Tramadol** (Ultram) is used for pain. Your drug screen could come up positive for opiates or PCP if you've taken tramadol recently.

## 10) Phentermine

**Phentermine** (Adipex-P) is the most prescribed medication for weight loss in the United States. It increases the release of neurotransmitters that stimulate metabolism and suppress appetite. Taking phentermine can result in a false positive urine test for amphetamines.

## 11) NSAIDs

**Ibuprofen** (Motrin, Advil) and **naproxen** (Aleve) are two very common over-the-counter nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs). If you've taken either of these, your urine screen may test positive for barbiturates or THC (marijuana). Ibuprofen may also show a false positive for PCP.

**Oxaprozin** (Daypro) is also an NSAID often used to treat pain related to arthritis. Taking oxaprozin may result in a false positive test for benzodiazepines.

## **12) Antidepressants**

Several antidepressants can cause false positives.

- **Venlafaxine** (Effexor XR) is a commonly prescribed serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI) antidepressant used for anxiety, depression, and menopausal hot flashes. Taking venlafaxine can result in a false positive urine test for PCP.
- **Quetiapine** (Seroquel) is an atypical antidepressant drug used to treat bipolar disorder, depression, and schizophrenia. Your drug test may show up positive for methadone or opiates if you are taking quetiapine.
- **Sertraline** (Zoloft) is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressant. Taking sertraline could lead to a positive result for benzodiazepines or LSD on a drug test.
- **Trazodone** is another antidepressant used to treat depression. Taking it may result in a false positive test for LSD, amphetamine, or methamphetamine.
- **Amitriptyline** (Amitril) is a tricyclic antidepressant (TCA) used to treat chronic pain, neuropathy (nerve pain), and depression, as well as prevent migraines. Amitriptyline may lead to a false positive urine test for the hallucinogenic drug LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide). Other TCAs that have also been reported to cause a false positive test for LSD include **desipramine** (Norpramin), **doxepin** (Zonalon, Prudoxin), and **imipramine** (Tofranil).
- **Bupropion** (Wellbutrin) is used to treat depression, help with weight loss, and support smoking cessation. But it may lead to a false positive when screening for amphetamine or methamphetamine, or LSD.

## **13) Proton pump inhibitors**

Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) (omeprazole, esomeprazole, pantoprazole) are widely prescribed medications used for the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and heartburn symptoms. Taking PPIs daily can result in a false positive urine test for THC.

## **14) Quinolone antibiotics**

Quinolone antibiotics (levofloxacin, ofloxacin) are commonly prescribed for urinary tract infections, pneumonia, and sinus infections among other things. Levofloxacin and ofloxacin are the most likely of these antibiotics to cause a false positive urine test for opiates. Ofloxacin has also been shown to cause a false positive test for amphetamine or methamphetamine.