

## Can I crush it?

The administration of medicines is perhaps the most common clinical procedure that a healthcare professional undertakes. However, this task is often complicated when patients become non-compliant with their medication due to a problem with swallowing.

When a tablet or capsule cannot be swallowed, an obvious solution might be to crush the tablet or open the capsule and add the medication to food or drink. However, many tablets and capsules are not designed to be crushed or opened. For example, crushing an extended release tablet can destroy the medication time release properties with the whole dose being released within a few minutes rather than the intended 12 or 24 hours.

With the need for clear, professional advice regarding the suitability of crushing a medicine, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) published “Don’t Rush to Crush” which is now available as additional optional content within MIMS Online.

The MIMS Online “Don’t Rush to Crush” content provides monographs for over 500 Australian medicines and lists generic names, brand names and available forms and strengths. There are separate recommendations for administering solid oral dose forms to patients with swallowing difficulties and to patients with enteral feeding tubes. The information is delivered for appropriate medications in a tabbed window only one click away from the full product information, abbreviated information and consumer medicine information.

The use of quick guide symbols in the “Don’t Rush to Crush” monographs provides rapid access and intuitive guidance on the suitability of a medication to be crushed or dispersed. A clear indication is also given in the case where a medication is unsuitable for crushing.

“Don’t Rush to Crush” is available in MIMS Online and is instantly retrieved using the standard search methods.

*PTO*

**DILTIAZEM**  
*diltiazem hydrochloride*

Form <sup>1</sup>	Brand names	Available strengths	Quick guide
Tablet (plain)	<i>Cardizem</i> <i>Chemmart Diltiazem</i> <i>Coras</i> <i>Diltiazem Sandoz</i> <i>Dilzem</i> <i>GenRx Diltiazem</i> <i>Terry White Chemists Diltiazem</i> <i>Vasocardol</i>	60 mg	

For more details including pricing and availability of “Don’t Rush to Crush” please contact [info@mims.com.au](mailto:info@mims.com.au).