DESCRIPTION
DEMSER (metyrosine) is (–)-L-tyrosine or (α-D-tyroxine). The active metabolite of DEMSER is (–)-DOPA, which is formed from the L-tyrosine hydroxylation product, (–)-DOPA. It is not known whether DEMSER is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when DEMSER is administered to a breastfeeding woman, especially if clearly needed.

DEMSER is supplied as capsules for oral administration. Each capsule contains 250 mg metyrosine.

Pharmacology
DEMSER is a dopamine and norepinephrine synthesis inhibitor. DEMSER is contraindicated in persons known to be hypersensitive to this compound. DEMSER is not recommended for the control of essential hypertension. DEMSER is indicated in the treatment of patients with pheochromocytoma for:

- Decreased endogenous levels of catecholamines, usually measured as decreased urinary excretion of catecholamines and their metabolites.
- Normalization of blood pressure and catecholamine excretion.

In patients who are hypertensive, dosage should be titrated to achieve normalization of blood pressure and catecholamine excretion. In patients who are normotensive, dosage should be individualized and titrated to a maximum of 40 mg/kg body weight daily. Maintenance of blood pressure at or near normal levels is usually achieved by a maintenance oral dose of 600 to 4000 mg/24 hours in patients with pheochromocytoma or essential hypertension. Less than 1% of the dose was recovered as catechol metabolites. These metabolites are probably not present in sufficient amounts to contribute to the clinical effects of DEMSER.