

**MEDICATIONS FOR ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDERS**

Updated 09/10

Medication	Form	Dose/Schedule	Dose Range	Onset/Duration	Most Common Side Effects	Pro	Precautions
methylphenidate Ritalin Methylin      Focalin (dexamethylphenidate)  Focalin XR	tablets 5, 10, 20 mg chewable 2.5, 5, 10 mg liquid 5 mg/5ml 10 mg/5ml  tablets 2.5, 5, 10mg  capsules 5, 10, 15, 20mg	Usually given two or three times a day. Begin 5 mg early AM & noon.	Child: 5-45 mg Adoles: 10-60mg Adults: 20-80mg	onset: 15-20 min duration:4 hrs max   Focalin: 5 hrs.  Focalin XR: 8 hrs.	Decreased appetite, decreased sleep, less common: headaches, stomach aches, irritability, weight loss, tics, "rebound".	Methylphenidate is the generic name of all these. Works quickly, effective often. The most studied. Little lab testing needed. Good safety history. Methylin has no dye, is very small, and comes in grape chewable and liquid. Focalin is a refined isomer form which may be better tolerated and smoother.	Caution if history of tics or Tourette's or high blood pressure. Controlled substance. Must hand write all scripts, no refills, no call ins.
methylphenidate-SR  RITALIN-SR  Methylin ER  Metadate ER  Metadate CD   Concerta  Ritalin LA	tablet  20mg SR   10mg ER 20mg ER  10mg, 20mg 30mg, 40mg 50mg, 60mg CD capsule  18, 27, 36, 54mg  10, 20, 30, 40mg capsules	Begin 10 or 20mg SR in AM, may need increase or noon dose. May need regular Ritalin to start in AM or extend duration to PM	Child: 10-40 mg Adoles: 20-40 mg Adults: 20-80 mg	onset: 30-60 min duration: 5-8hrs Concerta onset: 15-30 min duration: 8-12 hrs	Same as Ritalin	These are longer lasting versions of methylphenidate. Avoids noon dose, usually. Concerta is new but may truly last all day; it is a methylphenidate in a clever osmotic pressure release mechanism pill. Metadate CD uses a third mechanism to extend the duration and smooth the effect of methylphenidate. Both Metadate CD and Ritalin LA capsules can be pulled apart and sprinkled on food.	Same as Ritalin. The SR form is less reliable.
DAYTRANA (methylphenidate transdermal system)	patch 10, 15, 20, or 30 mg/9 hours	One patch per day to hip in early a.m. Remove after 6 to 12 hours – 9 hours is advised.	Child: 10-20 mg patch Adoles: 15-30 mg patch Adult:	onset: 2 hours duration: 1-2 hours after patch removed	Same as Ritalin plus patch may irritate skin.	Avoids oral dosing. Should cover school day and longer. Duration can be adjusted by time patch is put on and removed. May be smoother.	Same as Ritalin. Slow onset. Patch can be removed early or may come off accidentally.
DEXEDRINE (dextroamphetamine)	tablet (scored) 5mg 10mg	Same as Ritalin	Child:2.5-30 mg Adoles:10-45 mg Adults:10-60 mg	onset: 30 min duration: 4-5 hrs	Same as Ritalin	Stronger and longer effect than Ritalin. Some people do better with Dexedrine.	Same as Ritalin A few persons get "meaner" with amphetamines.
DEXEDRINE - SR	spansules 5mg 10mg 15mg	Begin 5mg in early AM. May only need once a day. May need regular Dexedrine in AM to start effect early, or afternoon dose to extend effect in afternoon.	Child:5-15 mg Adoles: 10-30 mg Adult: 10-40 mg	onset: 30-60 min duration: 6-10 hrs	Same as Ritalin, Less rebound in longer lasting medicines.	Dexedrine, Dexedrine SR and Adderall are amphetamines. Avoids noon dose, usually.	Same as Ritalin A few persons get "meaner" with amphetamines.
ADDERALL dextroamphetamine amphetamine ADDERALL-XR	tablet (scored) 5, 7.5, 10, 12.5, 15, 20, 30mg  capsule: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30mg	1 or 2 times a day. XR may be once a day.	Child:5-30 mg XR 10-20mg Adoles:10-40 mg XR 10-30mg Adults:10-50 mg XR 10-30mg	onset: 30 min duration: 4-8 hrs XR onset: 30-60 min duration: 6-10 hrs	Same as Ritalin	Usually once or twice a day. Two doses usually cover a whole day. The XR form should cover the whole school day but may require an after-school boost. The XR capsule can be opened and sprinkled on food. A general regular Adderall (not XR) is available.	Is combination of two types of dextroamphetamine and two types of amphetamine. Precautions same as Ritalin. A few persons get "meaner" with amphetamines. The most abusable of the group.
VYVANSE (lisdexamfetamine)	capsule: 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 mg	Once a day in AM	Child: 20-50 mg Adoles: 30-70 mg Adult: 30-70 mg	onset: 30-45 min duration: 8-12 hrs	Same as Ritalin	Longer duration. Capsule can be opened and sprinkled on food. Pro – drug avoids IV and snorting routes of abuse.	A few persons get “meaner” with amphetamines.

CYLERT (pemoline) is effective, once a day, not abusable, and convenient but has a rare but possibly severe chance of harming the liver. Simultaneous use of alcohol or cigarettes and especially street drugs should be avoided. All medications should be avoided if possible in pregnancy. This chart is intended to be a summary guide, not a full and complete list.

(adhd\_1.html)

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Imipramine*	tablets 10 mg 25 mg 50 mg 75 mg 100 mg	Begin with evening dose. Twice a day (AM and eve) may help ADHD more than once a day. Must take 7d/wk. Taper off when stopping.	child:37.5-150mg Adoles: 50-150mg Adults:100-300mg	onset: 45 min duration: 6-24 hrs; builds up to steady state in blood	Sedation, high heart rate, dry mouth, constipation, can worsen abnormal heart rate or glaucoma, or slow urination if enlarged prostate, fatigue, blurry vision	An antidepressant. Does not cut appetite. Less chance of increasing tics. May also help depression, anxiety, bedwetting. Lasts better all day. More interactions, less precise (broader range of effects) than other options. Prevents migraines, helps chronic pain. Older, generic available.	May not help attention as much as stimulants. May take 1-2 weeks to help ADHD. Usually advise EKG and blood tests. Desipramine and possibly Imipramine associated with rare sudden cardiac death. May increase overheating especially in hot humid settings. Dangerous in overdose.
Wellbutrin (bupropion)	tablet, scored 75 mg 100 mg slow release 100 mg 150 mg 200 mg  150mg XL 300mg XL	Begin 37.5-75mg AM. Usually 2 or 3 times /day  Must take 7 d/wk. SR is 1 or 2 times/day. XL is once daily in AM	child: 18.75-200mg Adoles: 100-300 mg Adults: 150-450 mg	onset: 45-60 min duration: 4-8 hrs SR lasts 6-12 hrs, steady state	Decreased appetite, increased energy, sometimes slower sleep onset.	Also effective antidepressant. May need 1-3 weeks to build up. Approved to help stop smoking (lessens nicotine withdrawal). Generic available. Less chance of increasing tics than stimulants	Avoid if seizure or eating disorder history. Should be given 2 or 3 times/day, SR is 1-2 times a day. May not help attention as much as stimulants. Must spread doses (5 to 6 hrs) and limit dose at any one time (150-200mg) except XL.
Tenex (guanfacine)	tablets 1.0 mg 2.0 mg	Begin in evening. May need 3 times/day. No patch form. Must take 7 d/wk.	child: 1.0-5.0mg Adoles: 1.0-4mg Adult:2.0-6mg	onset 30-45 min duration: 4-8 hrs	Less sedating than Clonidine, but can cause sedation, sometimes (25%) nightmares. May lower blood pressure.  Intuniv is once a day in AM, longest duration, least sedating, often smoother and is a new brand.	Less sedating than Clonidine. Same other benefits. Can be given 2 or 3 times/day. May need 1-2 weeks to build up. Helps tics, hyperactivity. Does not cut appetite. Invented to treat high blood pressure. Generic available.	May not help attention as much as stimulants. Do not stop suddenly, same as Clonidine. May rarely have unexpected heart effects.
Intuniv	tablets 1, 2, 3, 4 mg	Intuniv usually AM					
(clonidine)	0.1 mg 0.2 mg Patch (TTS-1/2/3)	Begin in evening due to sedation. May need to build up to 4 times/day. Patch on skin lasts 5-7 days. Must take 7 d/wk.	Adoles: 0.1-0.6mg Patch up to TTS-3	duration: 3-5 hrs patch 4-7 days duration	Very sedating. May lower blood pressure, dizziness. Skin irritation common with patch.	Helps tics. Helps severe hyperactivity and impulsivity. May need 1-2 weeks to build up. Does not cut appetite. Invented to treat hypertension. Has been used to treat opiate and/or nicotine withdrawal. Older, generic available.	Avoid if serious depression. Partial effect on attention. Taper off slowly to avoid rebound hypertension or agitation. May rarely have unexpected heart effects.
Strattera (atomoxetine)	capsules 10, 18, 25, 40, 60, 80, 100mg	Once or twice daily. Start in AM. Give evening if sedation.	Based on weight, 0.5 to 1.5mg/kg, target 1-1.4 mg/kg	onset 30-60 min duration: 5-8 hrs, steady state	Stimulant side effects but milder (see Ritalin); plus sedation, nausea possible.	Increases norepinephrine (NRI) stimulant-like action but lasts all day. Not a controlled substance. No direct dopamine effect so may be better tolerated.	Takes 2 to 4 weeks for maximum effects. Must be taken 7 days a week. Newest option and only available as brand.
Symmetrel (amantadine)	tablet (brand) 100mg capsule 100mg liquid 50mg/5ml	Twice daily.	100 to 300mg a day; varies with size	onset: 30-60 min duration: up to 8 hrs steady state	Side effects are generally minor and uncommon. Nausea, dizziness, insomnia.	Affects dopamine, not norepinephrine. Another alternative (like Strattera and Provigil) when stimulant effect is needed but stimulant not tolerated. Also helps Parkinson's disease and influenza. Not a controlled substance. Older, generic available.	Benefit may wear off but stopping it for 2 to 4 days usually restores benefit. Usually taken 7 days a week.
Provigil (modafinil)	tablets 100, 200 mg	Once daily in a.m.	100 to 400mg (100 to 200 mg usual)	onset: 1 hour duration: 12 hrs steady state	Can have stimulant like side effects though milder	Similar to stimulants but better tolerated. Benefits less than stimulants for ADHD. Good for narcolepsy and alertness in sleep disorders. Not a controlled substance.	Only available as brand. Rare hypersensitivity rash
Nuvigil (armodafinil)	50, 150, 250 mg		50 to 250 mg			Nuvigil is longer lasting isomer.	

Serzone and Buspar may also partially help for ADHD. Simultaneous use of alcohol or cigarettes and especially street drugs should be avoided. All medications should be avoided if possible in pregnancy.

This chart is intended to be a summary guide, not a full and complete list.

\*Desipramine (Norpramin) and Nortriptyline (Pamelor) are similar medications with similar uses.