

Common Medications for ADHD

Medication	Effect	Side-Effect
Methylphenidate 5-10mg 1-3x per day, max 60mg Concerta 18-54mg AM Daytrana (patch) 10-30mg, 1 patch for 9 hours Focalin - dexamethylphenidate, 2.5-10mg 2x/day Focalyn XR 2.5-20mg AM Metadate CD 20-60mg AM Metadate ER 10-20mg 2x/day Methylin ER 10-20 2x/day Ritalin LA 20-40 AM Ritalin SR (8 hours) 20mg 2x day	Methylphenidate is a mild CNS stimulant, activates the brain stem arousal system and cortex to produce its stimulant effect on frontal cortex. Stimulates CNS activity, block reuptake of norepinephrine and dopamine Rapidly absorbed. Peak plasma level at 2 hours, then declines. Improves focus, inhibition, attention, freedom from distractibility.	Black box warning for caution in unstable persons, those with hx of addiction, tolerance, psychotic episodes if injected. Abused by injection or inhalation. Contraindicated for anxiety, tics, heart problems, glaucoma, children under 6, during pregnancy or lactation. Some growth suppression, recent research suggests 3/4". May exacerbate psychosis. May lower seizure threshold. May affect metabolism of anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, TCAs. Adverse Effects: dependency, psychosis, mania, aggression, tic, arrhythmia, seizures, headache, abdominal pain, insomnia, vomiting, anorexia, dizziness, weight loss, rash, dizziness, drowsiness, hyperactivity, Common: anxiety
Amphetamine 5-40mg doses 2x/day) Adderall 5-30 mg, 2x/day Adderall XR 5-30mg AM Adderall 5-40mg Dexedrine 5-40mg AM Dextroamphetamine 5-15mg 2-3x/day DextroStat Liquadd 5-40mg day Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine) 20-70mg AM	Amphetamines increase available of norepinephrine & dopamine, blocks reuptake of dopamine	Black box warning for addiction potential. Contraindicated for arteriosclerosis, cardiovascular disease, HTN, agitation, hyperthyroidism, glaucoma, history of SUD, history of psychosis, tics, bipolar, lactation Adverse reactions: dependence, withdrawal, mania, aggression, tic, vascular-HTN, arrhythmia, CVA, seizures, growth suppression, abdominal pain, decreased appetite, dizziness, dry mouth, irritability, insomnia, nausea, tremor, headache, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, Common: anorexia, insomnia, abdominal pain, headache, lability, weight loss, nervousness, dry mouth, nausea, asthenia, diarrhea, impotence, tic exacerbation
Guanfacine (Tenex)	A blood pressure medication, reduces heart rate	Common: dizziness, drowsiness, headache, constipation, diarrhea, loss of appetite, fatigue,
Atomoxetine (Strattera) 10-100mg Adults 80mg AM Children 10-40mg AM Note: 30% of ADHD children cannot take stimulants, takes 4 weeks to achieve full effect, has positive effect upon social and family functioning, inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity	inhibits norepinephrine reuptake	Black box warning – increased risk of suicidality, .4% v placebo 0% Contraindicated for glaucoma, cardiac problems, severe arrhythmia, caution in depressions, liver damage, hypotension, bipolar, suicide risk Adverse reactions: psychosis, mania, aggression, suicidal ideation, HTN or hypotension, tachycardia, stroke, seizures, Common dry mouth, abdominal pain, dyspepsia, insomnia, sleep disorder, decreased appetite, decreased libido, dysmenorrhea, fatigue, palpitations, urinary retention, erectile dysfunction, hot flashes, dizziness