

# MEDICATIONS FOR ADHD

Group Main Use	Medication Brand/Generic	Form	Dose Schedule	Dose Range	Most Common Side Effects for Group	Pros for Group	Cautions for Group
methylphenidate Ritalin Methylin  Focalin (dexmethylphenidate)  Focalin XR	<b>tablets</b> 5, 10, 20 mg <b>chewable</b> 2.5, 5, 10 mg <b>liquid</b> 5 mg/5ml 10 mg/5ml <b>tablets</b> 2.5, 5, 10mg <b>capsules</b> 5, 10, 15,20, 25, 30, 35, 40mg	Usually given two or three times a day. Begin 5 mg AM & noon.	Child: 5-60 mg Over 50 kg:5- 100 mg Focalin, child:2.5-30 mg Over 50 kg:2.5-50 mg	onset: 15- 20 min duration:4 hrs max  Focalin: 4-5 hrs.  Foclin XR: 8 hrs.	Decreased appetite, decreased sleep, less common: headaches, stomach aches, irritability, weight loss, tics.	Methylphenidate is the generic name of all these. Works quickly, effective often. The most studied.  Focalin is a refined isomer form which may have fewer side effects Focalin XR is still brand only (no generic).	Caution if history of tics or Tourette's or high blood pressure. Controlled substance so must hand write all scripts, no refills, no call ins.
Metadate CD  Concerta	<b>capsules</b> 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 mg  <b>solid pill</b> 18, 27, 36, 54mg	Begin 10 or 18 mg and gradually increase until effective	Child: 10-40 mg Over 50 kg: 20-80 mg  Concerta child:18-72 mg	Metadate CD and Ritalin LA onset: 30- 60 min duration: 8hrs	Same as Ritalin  Same as	Concerta is methylphenidate in a osmotic release pill with the longest duration of action and low abuse potential	Same as Ritalin.

Ritalin LA	<b>capsule</b> 10, 20, 30, 40mg	Start 10 mg AM	Over 50 kgt:18-108 mg		Ritalin	. Metadate CD, Ritalin LA, and Focalin XR capsules can be pulled apart and sprinkled in a spoonful of yogurt, applesauce or pudding.	Comes as powder in bottle, add water, shake vigorously before each use. Refrigerate. Use dropper to measure.
Quillivant XR	<b>liquid</b> 25mg/5ms (5mg/1ml)		Child: 10-20 mg patch	Concerta onset: 15-30 min duration: 12 hrs	Same as Ritalin plus patch may irritate skin.		
Daytrana (methylphenidate transdermal system)	<b>patch</b> 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.	Over 50 kg: 10-30 mg	Duration 8 to 10+ hours  onset: 2 hours duration: 1-2 hours after patch removed		Avoids oral dosing. Should cover school day and longer. Duration can be adjusted by time patch is put and removed.	Same as Ritalin. Slow onset. Patch can be removed early or may come off accidentally.
Dexedrine (dextroamphetamine)	<b>tablet</b> 5mg 10mg	5 mg AM and Noon	Child:2.5-40 mg Over 50 kg:10-60 mg	onset: 30 min duration: 4-5 hrs	Same as Ritalin	Generic available.	Same as Ritalin
Dexedrine Spansule	<b>capsule</b> 5mg 10mg 15mg	Begin 5mg AM and gradually increase	Child:5-40 mg Over 50 kg: 10-40 mg	onset: 30-60 min duration: 8 hrs	Same as Ritalin, Less rebound in	Generic available.	Same as Ritalin

		until effective			longer lasting medicines.		
Adderall dextroamphetamine amphetamine Adderall XR	<b>tablet</b> 5, 7.5, 10, 12.5, 15, 20, 30mg <b>capsule</b> 5, 10, 15 20, 25, 30mg	1 or 2 times a day. XR may be once a day.	Child: 2.5-40 mg Over 50 kg: 5-60 mg XR Child: 5-30 Over 50 kg: 5- 60mg	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 dose. The XR capsule can be opened and sprinkled on food. Generics are available.	Precautions same as Ritalin. The most abusable of the group.
Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine)	<b>capsule</b> 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 mg	Once a day in AM	20-70 mg	onset: 30- 45 min duration: 8-12 hrs	Same as Ritalin.	Longer duration. No abuse potential. Brand only.	Same as Ritalin
Wellbutrin (bupropion) Wellbutrin SR Wellbutrin XL	<b>tablet</b> 75 mg 100 mg <b>slow release</b> 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	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.

						chance of increasing tics than stimulants.	
Tenex (guanfacine)	<b>tablet</b> 1.0 mg 2.0 mg	Begin in ½ or 1 mg AM and 3 PM				Often used with stimulants for aggression Few or no side effects. Helps tics, impulsive aggression and nightmares. Generic available.	May not help attention or hyperactivity as much as stimulants. Do not stop suddenly to avoid rare rebound high blood pressure.
Intuniv	<b>tablet</b> 1, 2, 3, 4 mg	Begin 1 mg AM	child: 1.0-5.0mg Adoles: 1.0-4mg Adult:2.0-6mg	onset 30-45 min duration: 4-8 hrs	Rarely causes sedation, Blood pressure med for adults but rarely lowers BP in youth	Intuniv is once a day in AM, longest duration, least sedating.	
(clonidine)	<b>tablet</b> 0.1 mg 0.2 mg tablets 0.1, 0.2mg	Begin ¼ to 1 pill at bedtime  Kapvay is usually AM.	0.25 to 0.4 mg 2-3 times per day or bedtime only	duration: 4-6 hrs	Very sedating. May lower blood pressure, dizziness.  Kapvay is similar to Intuniv.	Helps tics, nightmares, severe hyperactivity and impulsive aggression. Most common sleep med for ADHD youth. Generic Clonidine available.	Not effective for attention. Taper off slowly to avoid rebound high blood pressure.
Strattera (atomoxetine)	capsules 10mg 18mg 25mg	To prevent sedation begin at bedtime at	Based on weight, 1.2 to 1.5mg/kg/day when under	onset 30-60 min duration: 5-8 hrs,	Stimulant side effect but milder plus	Adolescence and adults often like gradual onset. Best for people	Takes up to 4 weeks to be effective. Best for attention

	40mg 60mg 80mg 100mg	½ target dose for 5 nights, increase to target dose for 5 nights then change to AM	150 lbs. over 150 target dose 80 to 100 mg AM	steady state	sedation, nausea possible. Rare severe nausea and need to split dose to AM and 3 PM	with co-occurring Anxiety and Tics. Not a controlled substance.	and not hyperactivity. 2% to 8% of youth are slow metabolizers and need lower dose or if taken with Prozac or Paxil. Must be taken 7 days a week. Only available as brand.
Provigil (modafinil)	tablets 100, 200 mg		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.	Provigil generic available.
Nuvigil (armodafinil)	50, 150, 250 mg	Once daily in a.m.	50 to 250 mg			Nuvigil is longer lasting isomer.	Rare hypersensitivity rash