



Medications Used in the Treatment of ADHD

Approved by the US FDA



Methylphenidate-based Stimulants

Follow the link on the medication name for its medication guide and generic information if available.

| Delivery | Brand Name | Duration | Form | Available Dosage Strengths | Concerns & Side Effects |
|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------|---|---|
| Immediate release | Focalin® <i>(generic available)</i> | 3–5 hours | tablet | 2.5 mg 5 mg 10 mg | Common side effects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • headache • decreased appetite • stomach ache • nervousness • trouble sleeping • nausea • reduced spontaneity Other side effects may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slowing of growth (height and weight) in children • eyesight changes or blurred vision • painful and prolonged erections Heart-related problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sudden death in patients who have heart problems or heart defects • stroke and heart attack in adults • increased blood pressure and heart rate Mental (psychiatric) problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new or worse behavior and thought problems • new or worse bipolar illness • new or worse aggressive behavior or hostility • new psychotic symptoms (such as hearing voices, believing things that are not true, suspiciousness) or new manic symptoms Circulation problems in fingers and toes |
| | Methylin® Oral Solution <i>(generic available)</i> | 3–5 hours | liquid | 5 mg/5ml 10 mg/5ml | |
| | Methylin® Chewable | 3-5 hours | chewable tablet | 2.5 mg 5 mg 10 mg | |
| | Ritalin® <i>(generic available)</i> | 3–5 hours | tablet | 5 mg 10 mg 20 mg | |
| Sustained release | Ritalin-SR® | 7–8 hours | tablet | 20 mg | |
| Extended release | Adhansia XR™ | 12+ hours | capsule | 25 mg 35 mg 45 mg 55 mg 70 mg 85 mg | |
| | Aptensio XR™ <i>(generic available)</i> | 7–8 hours | capsule | 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg 30 mg 40 mg 50 mg 60 mg | |
| | Concerta® <i>(generic available)</i> | 10–12 hours | tablet | 18 mg 27 mg 36 mg 54 mg | |
| | Cotempla™XR-ODT | 8–12 hours | tablet | 8.6 mg 17.3 mg 25.9 mg | |
| | Daytrana® | 10–12 hours (9 hours applied + up to three hours after) | transdermal patch | 10 mg 15 mg 20mg 30mg | |
| | Focalin XR® <i>(generic available)</i> | 12 hours | capsule | 5 mg 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg 25 mg 30 mg 35 mg 40 mg | |
| | Jornay PM™ | 12+ hours | capsule | 20 mg 60 mg 40 mg 80 mg 100 mg | |



Medications Used in the Treatment of ADHD

Approved by the US FDA



| Delivery | Brand Name | Duration | Form | Available Dosage Strengths | Concerns & Side Effects |
|----------|--|---------------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------|
| | Metadate CD[®] <i>(generic available)</i> | 8 hours | capsule | 10 mg 20 mg 30 mg 40 mg 50 mg 60 mg | |
| | Metadate[®] ER | 8–12 hours | tablet | 20 mg | |
| | QuilliChew ER[™] | 8–12 hours | chewable tablet | 20 mg 30 mg 40 mg | |
| | Quillivant XR[®] | 8, 10, and 12 hours | liquid | 10 mg/2ml 20 mg/4ml 30 mg/6ml 40 mg/8 ml 50 mg/10 ml 60 mg/12 ml | |
| | Ritalin LA[®] <i>(generic available)</i> | 8 hours | capsule | 10 mg 20 mg 30 mg 40 mg 60 mg | |

Amphetamine-based Stimulants

Follow the link on the medication name for its medication guide and generic information if available.

| Delivery | Brand Name | Duration | Form | Available Dosage Strengths | Concerns & Side Effects |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|--------|--|---|
| Immediate release | Adderall[®] <i>(generic available)</i> | 4–8 hours | tablet | 5 mg 7.5 mg 10 mg 12.5 mg 15 mg 20 mg 30 mg | Common side effects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • headache • trouble sleeping • circulation problems in fingers and toes • decreased appetite • nervousness • dizziness • diarrhea, constipation • mood changes, feeling irritable, restless or nervous • dry mouth, unusual or unpleasant taste in mouth • runny nose, nosebleeds • itching, rash, or allergic reactions • increased tics • reduced spontaneity |
| | Evekeo[®] | 4–6 hours | tablet | 5 mg 10 mg | |
| | Evekeo ODT[™] | 4–6 hours | tablet | 5 mg 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg | |
| | ProCentra[®] | 4–8 hours | liquid | 5mg/5ml | |
| | Zenzedi[®] | 4–8 hours | tablet | 2.5 mg 5 mg 7.5 mg 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg 30 mg | |



Medications Used in the Treatment of ADHD

Approved by the US FDA



| Delivery | Brand Name | Duration | Form | Available Dosage Strengths | Concerns & Side Effects |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| <i>Extended release</i> | Adderall XR® <i>(generic available)</i> | 8–12 hours | capsule | 5 mg 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg 25 mg 30 mg | <p>Other side effects may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slowing of growth (height and weight) in children • eyesight changes or blurred vision • impotence or sexual problems <p>Heart-related problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sudden death in patients who have heart problems or heart defects • stroke and heart attack in adults • increased blood pressure and heart rate <p>Mental (psychiatric) problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new or worse behavior and thought problems • new or worse bipolar illness • new or worse aggressive behavior or hostility • new psychotic symptoms (such as hearing voices, believing things that are not true, suspiciousness) or new manic symptoms |
| | Adzenys ER | | liquid | 3.1 mg/2.5 ml 6.3 mg/5 ml 9.4 mg/7.5 ml 12.5 mg/10 ml 15.7 mg/12.5 ml 18.8 mg/15 ml | |
| | Adzenys XR-ODT™ | 9–10 hours— children 11 hours—adults | tablet | 3.1 mg 6.3 mg 9.4 mg 12.5 mg 15.7 mg 18.8 mg | |
| | Dexedrine® <i>(generic available)</i> | 6–9 hours | capsule | 5 mg 10 mg 15 mg | |
| | Desoxyn® | 4-8 hours | tablet | 5 mg | |
| | Dyanavel® XR | 8–12 hours | liquid | 2.5 mg/1 ml 5 mg/2 ml 7.5 mg/3 ml 10 mg/4 ml 12.5 mg/5 ml 15 mg/6 ml 17.5 mg/7 ml 20 mg/8 ml | |
| | Mydayis™ | 16 hours | capsule | 12.5 mg 25 mg 37.5 mg 50 mg | |
| | Vyvanse® | 10–12 hours | capsule | 10 mg 20 mg 30 mg 40 mg 50 mg 60 mg 70 mg | |
| Vyvanse® | 8-12 hours | chewable tablet | 10 mg 20 mg 30 mg 40 mg 50 mg 60 mg | | |



Medications Used in the Treatment of ADHD

Approved by the US FDA



Non-Stimulant Medications

Follow the link on the medication name for its medication guide and generic information if available.

Norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor

| Medication | Brand Name | Delivery | Duration | Form | Available Dosage Strengths | Concerns & Side Effects |
|-------------|--|------------------|----------|---------|---|---|
| Atomoxetine | Strattera® <i>(generic available)</i> | Extended release | 24 hours | capsule | 10 mg 18 mg 25 mg 40 mg 60 mg 80 mg 100 mg | Nervousness, sleep problems, fatigue, upset stomach, dizziness, dry mouth. In rare cases, may lead to severe liver injury or possibly to suicidal thoughts. |

Alpha agonists

| Medication | Brand Name | Delivery | Duration | Form | Available Dosage Strengths | Concerns & Side Effects |
|------------|--|------------------|-------------|--------|----------------------------|---|
| Clonidine | Kapvay® <i>(generic available)</i> | Extended release | 12–24 hours | tablet | 0.1 mg 0.2 mg | Fatigue, drowsiness, dizziness, dry mouth, decreased appetite, increased appetite, constipation, irritability, low blood pressure; abrupt discontinuation may lead to elevated levels of nervousness, anxiety, and blood pressure |
| Guanfacine | Intuniv® <i>(generic available)</i> | Extended release | 12–24 hours | tablet | 1 mg 2 mg 3 mg 4 mg | |

The lists of side effects are provided by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are not a complete list of all possible side effects. If you are experiencing unusual symptoms, consult your doctor or prescribing health care provider. Follow links for more information.

Additional Resources:

- [DAILYMED](#) (U.S. National Library of Medicine)
- [Drug Lookup](#) (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- [Medication Guides](#) (US Food & Drug Administration)
- [FDA Listing of Authorized Generics](#) (as of July 1, 2019)
- [ADHD Medication Guide](#) (Cohen Children's Medical Center, March 2019)

This chart is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number NU38DD005376 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.