

Medications Used in the Treatment of ADHD

Approved by the US FDA

Methylphenidate-based stimulants

Delivery	Brand Name	Duration	Form	Available Dosage Strengths	Concerns & Side Effects
Immediate release	Focalin® <i>(generic available)</i>	4–6 hours	tablet	2.5 mg 5 mg 10 mg	<p>Common side effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • headache • decreased appetite • stomach ache • nervousness • trouble sleeping • nausea <p>Other serious side effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slowing of growth (height and weight) in children • seizures, mainly in patients with a history of seizures • eyesight changes or blurred vision • painful and prolonged erections <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> <p>All Patients</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 <p>Children and Teenagers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new psychotic symptoms (such as hearing voices, believing things that are not true, are suspicious) or new manic symptoms <p>Circulation problems in fingers and toes</p>
	Methylin® Oral Solution <i>(generic available)</i>	3–4 hours	liquid	5 mg/5ml 10 mg/5ml	
	Ritalin® <i>(generic available)</i>	3–4 hours	tablet	5 mg 10 mg 20 mg	
Sustained release	Ritalin-SR® <i>(generic available)</i>	4–8 hours	tablet	20 mg	
	Desoxyn® <i>(generic available)</i>	4-8 hours	tablet	5 mg	
Extended release	Aptensio XR™	12 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	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>	6–10 hours	capsule	5 mg 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg 30 mg 40 mg	
	Metadate CD® <i>(generic available)</i>	8–10 hours	capsule	10 mg 20 mg 30 mg	
	Ritalin LA® <i>(generic available)</i>	8–10 hours	capsule	10 mg 20 mg 30 mg 40 mg	
	QuilliChew ER™	8 hours	chewable tablet	20 mg 30 mg 40 mg	
	Quillivant XR®	8, 10, and 12 hours	liquid	10 mg 20 mg	

*The FDA issued a [report](#) that two generic versions of Concerta delivered the active medication at a slower rate and might not work as well as the brand version.

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.

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Amphetamine-based Stimulants

Delivery	Brand Name	Duration	Form	Available Dosage Strengths	Concerns & Side Effects
<i>Immediate release</i>	Adderall ® <i>(generic available)</i>	4–6 hours	tablet	5 mg 7.5 mg 10 mg 12.5 mg 15 mg 20 mg 30 mg	<p>Common side effects include:</p> <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 • impotence or sexual problems <p>Other serious side effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • slowing of growth (height and weight) in children • seizures, mainly in patients with a history of seizures • eyesight changes or blurred vision <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> <p>All Patients</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 <p>Children and Teenagers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new psychotic symptoms (such as hearing voices, believing things that are not true, are suspicious) or new manic symptoms <p>High potential for misuse and abuse: Administration for prolonged periods of time may lead to drug dependence May impair ability to drive or operate heavy machinery</p>
	Evekeo ®	4–6 hours	capsule	5 mg 10 mg	
	ProCentra ®	4-6 hours	liquid	5mg/5ml	
	Zenzedi ®	4–5 hours	tablet	2.5 mg 5 mg 7.5 mg 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg 30 mg	
<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	
	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>	8–10 hours	capsule	5 mg 10 mg 15 mg	
	Dyanavel ® XR	13 hours	liquid	2.5 mg 5 mg 7.5 mg 10 mg 12.5 mg 15 mg 17.5 mg 20 mg	
	Mydayis ™	16 hours	capsule	12.5 mg 25 mg 37.5 mg 50 mg	
	Vyvanse ®	10–12 hours	capsule	20 mg 50 mg 30 mg 60 mg 40 mg 70 mg	

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Nonstimulant Medications

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.

Antihypertensives

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, 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	tablets	1 mg 2 mg 3 mg 4 mg	

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Additional Resources:

- [DAILYMED](#) (U.S. National Library of Medicine)
- [Drug Lookup](#) (American Academy of Pediatrics)
- [FDA Listing of Authorized Generic](#) (as of September 29, 2017)
- [ADHD Medication Guide](#) (Cohen Children’s Medical Center, December 2016)

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