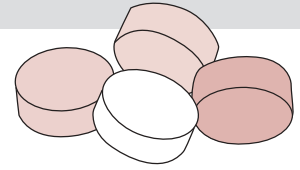


# ADHD Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

## A Medication Fact Sheet



### What medicines are used to treat ADHD?

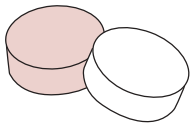
The most commonly used medicines to treat ADHD are called “stimulants.”

Some of these medicines are: Ritalin & Concerta (generic name: methylphenidate), and Adderall, Dexedrine & Dextrostat (generic name: dextroamphetamine). Even though these medicines can have a stimulating or energizing effect on certain parts of the brain, the amounts of these medicines used to treat ADHD actually help to have a calming effect in children with ADHD.

There is also a non-stimulant medicine known as Strattera (generic name: atomoxetine) that is used to treat ADHD. Some children may do better on the stimulant medicine while other children may do better when taking Strattera.

Other types of medicine including antidepressants are sometimes used to treat ADHD.

Nine out of 10 children get better on one of these medicines. So if one of the medicines listed above doesn't help, others should be tried. A medicine should be tried for at least 3 to 4 weeks, and the dose may need to be changed to see if it helps.



Some studies show that medicine and therapy together may work better for some children than just taking medicine alone, so most doctors recommend that children taking medicine for ADHD should also see a therapist.

### Do the medicines for ADHD have side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. However, the side effects from these medicines are hardly ever unsafe. The common side effects may include: a low appetite, trouble sleeping, stomachache, headache, or a decrease in emotional expression. The loss of appetite seems to be the most common in children.

There are some ways to lessen the side effects:

- ◆ Use the lowest possible dose that still helps your child be less hyper-active. Your doctor will tell you the right dose.
- ◆ Give the medicine with food if it bothers your child's stomach.
- ◆ Children who lose weight while taking medicine for ADHD can have extra healthy snacks during the day or in the evening.

### How should medicine for ADHD be taken?

It's important to give the medicine to your child just the way the doctor says. Follow the doctor's advice even if you think the medicine may not be working. Be sure to talk with your child's doctor if you think the medicine is not working.

Good times during the day to take the medicine are at breakfast and lunch time. The doctor may suggest a long-acting form of the medicine. The long-acting forms are taken only once a day usually at breakfast. The medicine should not be crushed, broken or chewed before being taken.

