

ADHD Medications

Common Medication Names

- Ritalin
- Adderall
- Concerta

Usage

This combination medication is used as part of a total treatment program to control attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). It may help to increase the ability to pay attention, stay focused, and control behavior problems.

This product is a combination of stimulants (amphetamine and dextroamphetamine). It is thought to work by restoring the balance of certain natural substances (neurotransmitters) in the brain.

This drug may also be used to treat certain sleeping disorders (narcolepsy). It should not be used to treat tiredness or to hold off sleep in people who do not have a sleep disorder.

Attention Deficit Disorder

A diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD; DSM-IV®) implies the presence of hyperactive-impulsive or inattentive symptoms that caused impairment and were present before age 7 years. The symptoms must cause clinically significant impairment, e.g., in social, academic, or occupational functioning, and be present in two or more settings, e.g., school (or work) and at home. The symptoms must not be better accounted for by another mental disorder. For the Inattentive Type, at least six of the following symptoms must have persisted for at least 6 months: lack of attention to details/careless mistakes; lack of sustained attention; poor listener; failure to follow through on tasks; poor organization; avoids tasks requiring sustained mental effort; loses things; easily distracted; forgetful. For the Hyperactive-Impulsive Type, at least six of the following symptoms must have persisted for at least 6 months: fidgeting/squirming; leaving seat; inappropriate running/climbing; difficulty with quiet activities; "on the go;" excessive talking; blurting answers; can't wait turn; intrusive. The Combined Type requires both inattentive and hyperactive-impulsive criteria to be met.

**Please see your School Nurse
with any questions or concerns**

Side Effects to Watch for:

- Cardiovascular: Heart palpitations, fast heartbeat, feeling that the heart is "racing".
- Nervous System: Overstimulation, restlessness, dizziness, insomnia (unable to fall asleep), development or increase of tics, tremors or involuntary movements, anxiety, depression, headache, seizure or in rare cases, stroke.
- Gastrointestinal: Dryness of the mouth, unpleasant taste, diarrhea or constipation, anorexia and/or weight loss.
- Allergic: Rash, hypersensitivity reactions that may include hives or difficulty breathing.

