

The Treatment of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder



Presenter:

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Disclosures

The REACH Institute – Faculty honoraria (per diem)

ADHD

Rule of Threes

- 3 Main Symptoms
 - Inattention, Impulsivity, Hyperactivity
- Impacts 3 Basic Functions
 - Focus, Motivation, Planning/Organization
- 3 Mainstays of Treatment
 - Pharmacotherapy, Behavioral therapy, Accommodations

Evidence-Based Pharmacotherapy Treatment

- First Line: Stimulants
- Stimulants have 70-90% response rate
- May require trials with various formulations to get optimal response
- 65-70% respond to one class; up to 90% respond to either
- Side effects profile similar
- Difference in preparations primarily in duration of action
- Evidence provided by MTA Study

Evidence Based Treatment

The M.T.A study:

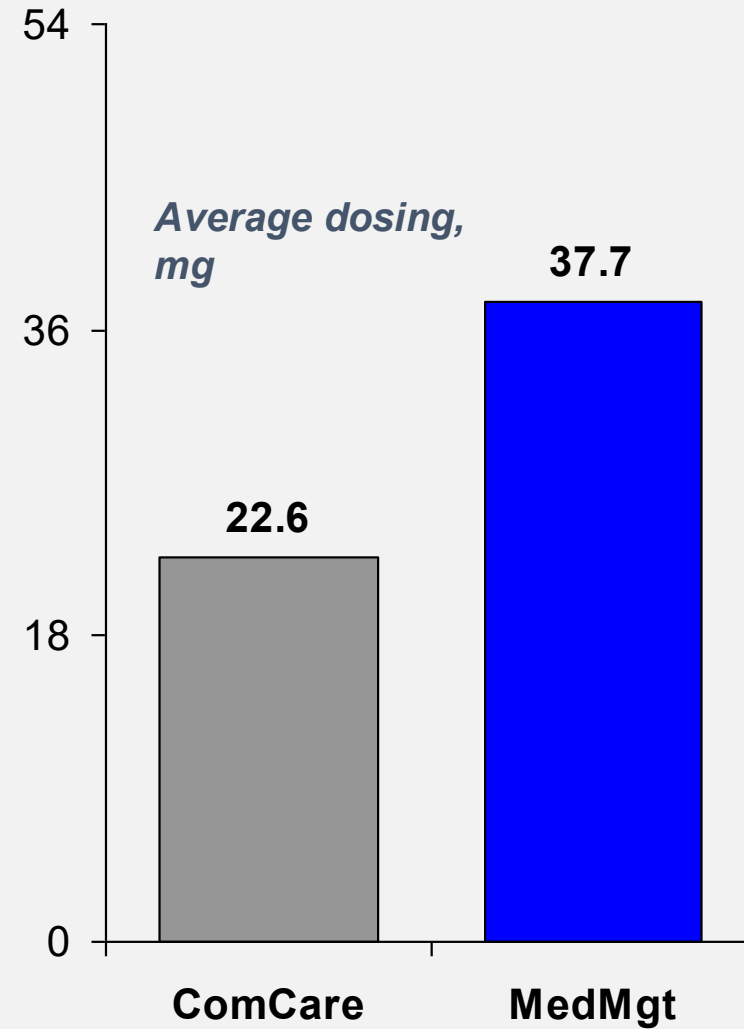
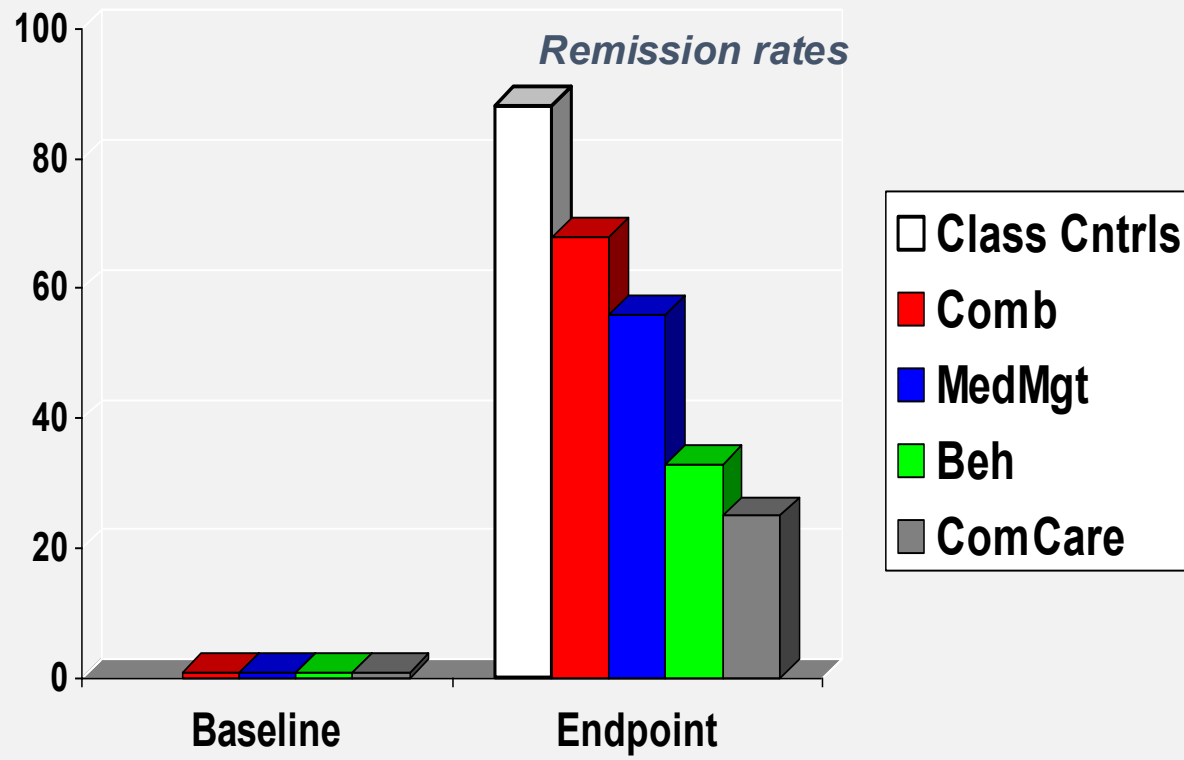
- 1) medication alone – methylphenidate
- 2) medication and behavior therapy
- 3) behavior therapy alone
- 4) treatment as usual

Results:

- 1)MTA style medication management alone – very good outcome
- 2)Combined with behavioral therapy – even better, 10% advantage , especially for anxious kids
- 3)Behavior therapy alone - little benefit
- 4)Community care: Treatment as usual – poor outcome

MTA Study:

Remission Rate Increased with Increasing Dose



ADHD Medication

- How did the MTA trial achieve high-rates of remission?
 - Higher stimulant doses
 - Better coverage in the evenings
 - Follow-up visits monthly for 30 minutes
 - Active contact with school and support network
 - Follow-up Vanderbilts from home and school at each visit

Use rating scale data to determine place of optimum response and duration of action of AM dose

Dose Effect Time of Stimulant Preparations (hours)

- Methylphenidate
 - Ritalin/Focalin 4
 - Ritalin LA/Metadate CD/ 6-8
 - Focalin XR 8
 - Concerta MPH 10-12
- Amphetamine
 - Dextro/Levo amphetamine (Adderall) 6
 - Adderall XR 8-12
 - Vyvanse 10-12

**Different charts say different things and people are variable!

Side Effects

- **Common**
 - Appetite suppression
 - Sleep disturbance
 - Headache
 - GI upset
- **Less common**
 - Tic exacerbation
 - Rebound
 - Irritability/Emotional lability/Social withdrawal
 - Reduction in growth velocity
 - Hypertension/Tachycardia/Arrhythmia
- **Rare**
 - Psychosis
 - Abuse potential/Diversion

Titration and Follow-Up

- Benefits and side effects occur right away
- Seeking maximum effect with minimum side effects.
- Treat for remission — Improvement is not enough!
- Follow up in one week by phone or in-person
- Follow rating scales and side effects
 - Physical exam: height, weight, bp, pulse.
- Follow-up a few days after dose change.
- When initially stable see monthly as multimodal plan is put in place then every three months.
- Reassess every new school year

Alternative to Stimulants

Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor

Atomoxetine (Strattera)

Viloxazine (Qelbree)

Alpha 2-Agonists

Clonidine (Catapres, Kapvay)

Guanfacine (Tenex, Intuniv)

- Although there is evidence to support their relative effectiveness compared to placebo, the gold standard is the stimulants due to a much larger **effect size**

Atomoxetine

- Dosing based on weight
- Common AEs: irritability, sedation or insomnia, decreased appetite, GI
- Rare accounts of liver damage, suicidal ideation: boxed warning
- Advantages:
 - Once Daily dosing (max 10 Hours)
 - Little abuse potential (adolescents)
 - No apparent effects on growth
 - Does not seem to exacerbate tics
- Disadvantages:
 - Delayed onset (takes 3-6 weeks)
 - Generally not as effective

Atomoxetine Dosing

- 1. Starting dose 0.5mg/kg for first 4 days
- 2. Advance to TARGET dose as close to 1.2 to 1.4mg/kg as you can get. (typical max is 100mg)
- 3. Can be given ONCE or TWICE a day
- 4. Stay at target dose for a month

How supplied: 10, 18, 25, 40, 60, 80, 100mg

Viloxazine (Qelbree)

Dosing for children 6 to 11

- 100mg week 1
- 200mg week 2
- 300mg week 3
- 400mg week 4

*Supplied as 100, 150, 300 & 400 capsules
Can be sprinkled on soft food.*

Dosing for Adolescents 12 to 17

- 200mg week 1
- 400 mg week 2
- Can go to 600mg week 3

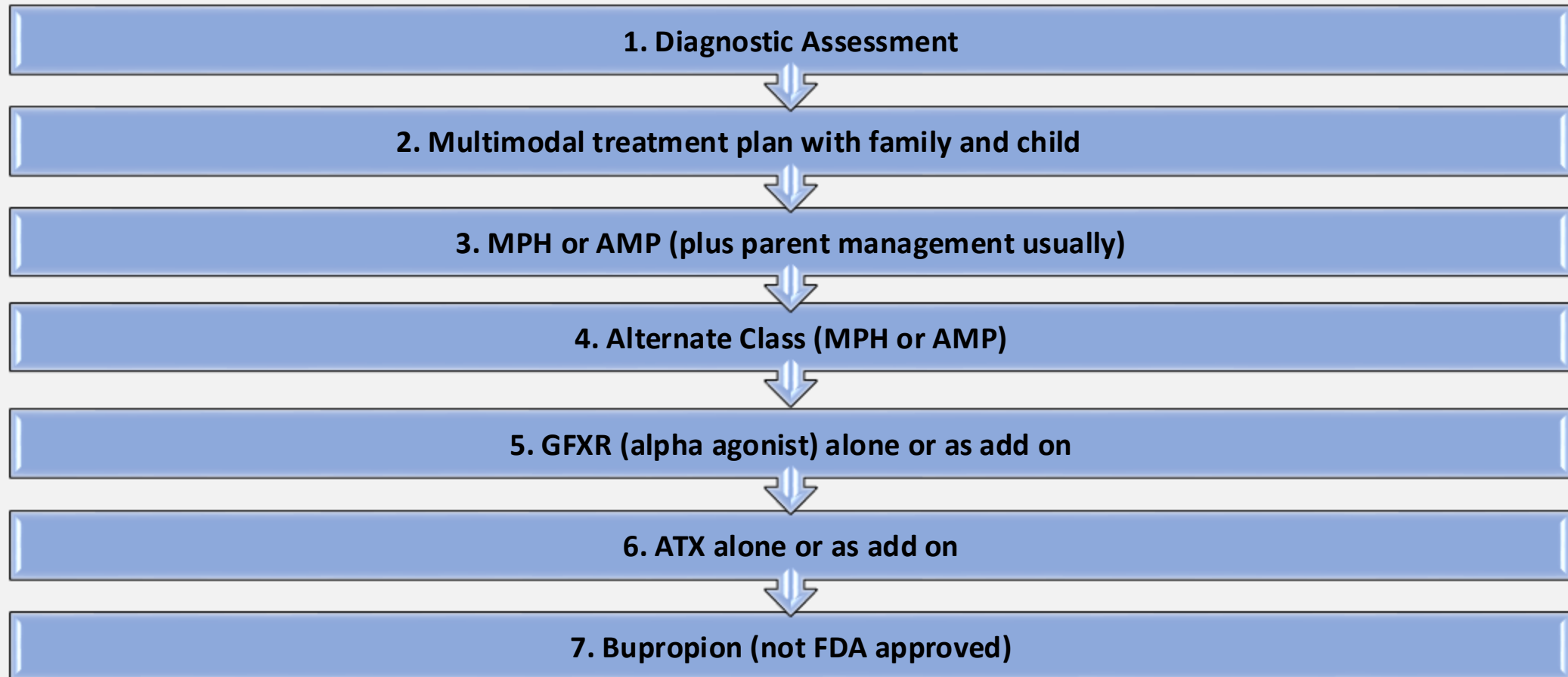
Alpha-2-Adrenergic Agonists

- Guanfacine - start at 0.5mg once or twice a day, 6mg max
- Intuniv (Guanfacine ER) start at 1mg daily- advance weekly, max of 6mg
- Clonidine- start at 0.05mg once at bedtime, advance weekly, 0.4mg max
- Side effects: sedation, lower BP therefore MUST taper when stopping and daily compliance is a safety issue
- Advantages
 - Sedating (sleep difficulties)
 - LA forms given once daily (Kapvay may need BID)
 - Better for hyperactivity and impulsivity than inattention
 - Adjuncts for children with partial response to stimulant

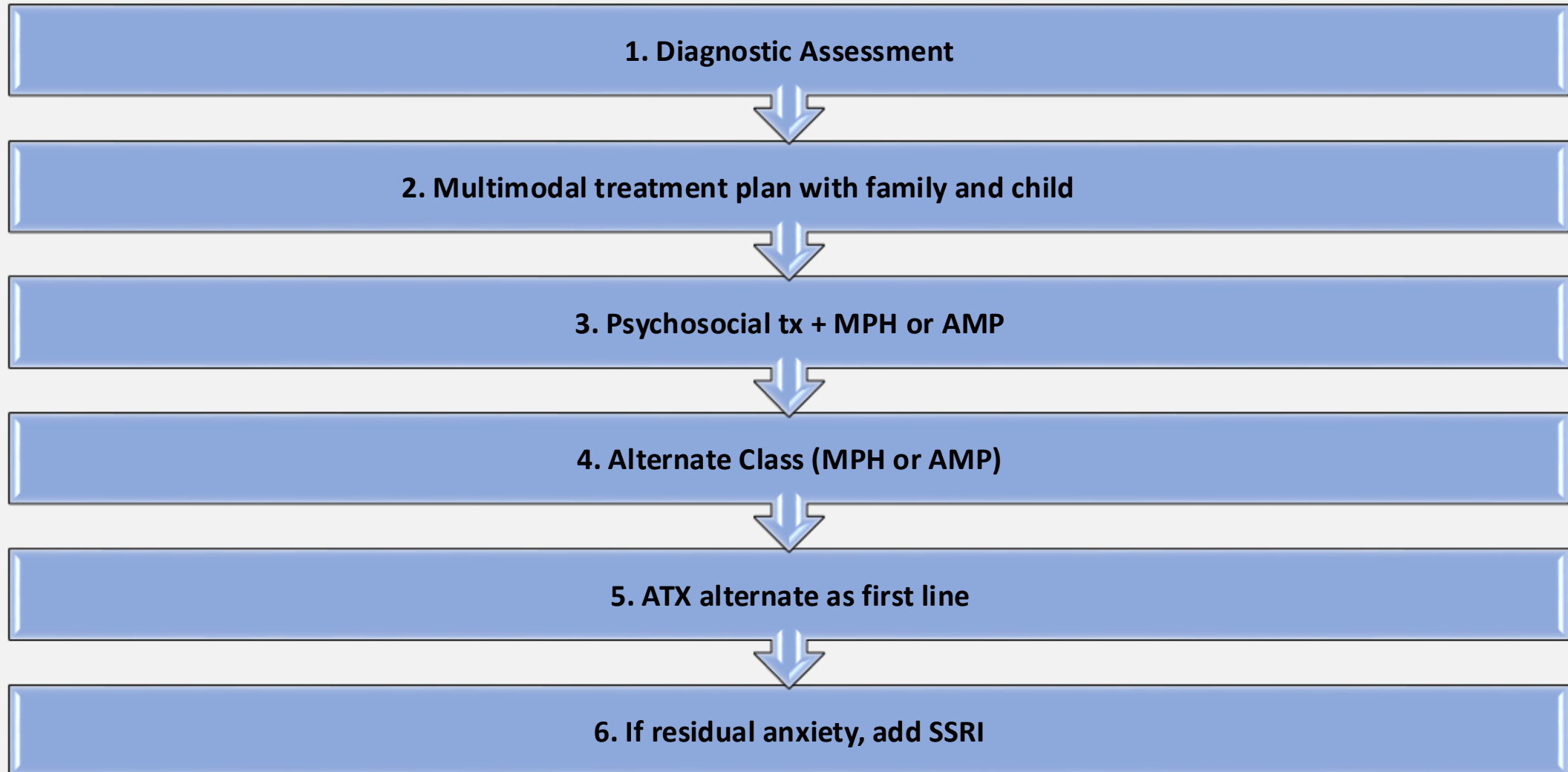
Medication Treatment Responsive Groups

- Children
- Teenagers
- Adults
- Preschoolers (Short et al . 2004, Greenhill et al., 2007)
- Individuals with Intellectual Handicaps (Pearson et al.2004)
- ADHD co-morbid with Other Diagnoses
 - Tourette's Disorder
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Anxiety/Mood Disorder
 - Conduct Disorder
 - Oppositional Defiant Disorder
 - Substance Abuse Disorder

Garden Variety ADHD



ADHD + Anxiety/Depression





Principles of Behavior Therapy

- Positive reinforcement is much better than negative reinforcement
- Motivation can be improved with pairing preferred and non-preferred activities- work before play!
- Most of us thrive with structure and routine ADHD child needs lots of this!
- Tight collaboration with school- behavior plan, daily report card
- Avoid shaming and excessive punishment

Non-pharmacological Interventions

- Organizational skills training, Peer tutoring
 - Computer assisted instruction – targets attention and working memory- popular in research sector and commercially. Evidence not clear- reviewed by Rutledge 2012
 - EndeavorRx FDA authorized video game. Cost \$100- 25 minutes, 5 days a week for at least 4 consecutive weeks
- Homework focused interventions
- School accommodations
 - Eligibility for a 504 plan
 - Additional time for exams, quiet setting for exams, training interventions at school
 - IDEA (Other Health Impairment) creating an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
 - for appropriate class placement, instructional and behavioral support
- Dealing with co-morbid conditions
- Social skills training if needed

Social Supports

- Support groups (e.g. CHADD)
- Online
 - www.teachingkidstolisten.com
 - www.Help4ADHD.org
- Books
 - 1-2-3 Magic (Tom Phelan)
 - Making the System Work for Your ADHD Child (Peter Jensen)
 - Taking Charge of ADHD: The Complete Authoritative Guide for Parents (Russell Barkley)
 - ADHD: What Every Parent Needs to Know (M Reiff)

Why Should I Treat My Patient's ADHD

Risk of Not Treating

- Academic struggles
- Difficult family and peer relationships
- Risk of injury
- Teen risk-taking and impulsive behavior
- Poor vocational performance
- Dangerous driving

Risk of Treating

- Possible adverse side effects
- Medication misuse/abuse

Bottom Line

- Titrate closely and relatively quickly
- Use your algorithms
- Higher stimulant dose is usually the first step
- Follow up every 3 months only after stable
- Remember psychosocial treatments and school interventions

What would you do for this patient?

- Medication
 - Which one?
 - Dose?
 - How soon to follow up
 - What about sleep?
- Behavior Therapy
 - Suggestions for parents
- Accommodations
 - School-based suggestions?

**My thanks to Dr. J. Wallace at University of Rochester
for the following accommodations menu**

Accommodation Menu

Pro

Focus and Attention

- ____ Seat in the front of the classroom
- ____ Seat away from distractions (fish tank)
- ____ Seat near quiet peers and away from disruptive peers
- ____ Increase space between seats
- ____ Private cue to stay on/return to task
- ____ Involve student in discussions/activities
- ____ Make instructions clear and brief
- ____ Select teachers with energetic, engaging style
- ____ Pair written and oral instructions
- ____ Check to be sure assignments are copied correctly
- ____ Break large assignments into parts with deadlines
- ____ Make extra eye contact with student
- ____ Teach in close proximity to student
- ____ Consider need for smaller environment with more adult support

Accommodation Menu

- **Impulsivity and Hyperactivity**

- ___ Ignore minor impulsive behavior
- ___ Keep student occupied and active
- ___ Supervise closely during transitions
- ___ Reprimand(s) should be brief and private if possible
- ___ Seat near good role model
- ___ Notice and reinforce positive behaviors
- ___ Set up behavior contract with clear short-term goals
- ___ Encourage hand-raising and waiting
- ___ Rewards and consequences should be immediate
- ___ Implement home/school reward token system
- ___ Allow student to stand and move at times
- ___ Provide movement breaks between seated activities
- ___ Consider need for smaller environment with more adult support

Accommodation Menu

Organization and Planning

- ___ Use adults to support organization – teachers, parents, resource teachers
- ___ Create “Homework Loop” to complete daily assignments
- ___ Check to see that assignments are written down correctly
- ___ Be sure correct books go home or consider extra copies
- ___ Encourage parents to set up homework time and place and assistant
- ___ Have teachers ask for completed assignments
- ___ Empty and reorganize book bag and locker at least weekly
- ___ Use colored dividers and folders
- ___ Consider peer assistant for organization
- ___ Use multi-sensory approaches for giving assignments and teaching
- ___ Consider allowing tape recording of assignments and lessons
- ___ Use consistent repetitive approach to getting organized
- ___ Ask student to repeat instructions

Accommodation Menu

Academic Struggles

- ___ Consider referral for testing for any learning concerns/disabilities
- ___ Explore other possible impairing conditions (speech, hearing, learning disabilities)
- ___ Use multi-sensory techniques in all phases of teaching
- ___ Use games, songs and chants/raps for rote learning and memorization
- ___ Accommodate weaknesses in learning – math, reading, foreign language
- ___ Be aware that learning weaknesses worsen attentional problems and vice versa
- ___ Schedule regular meetings/communication with parents about learning concerns
- ___ Direct parents to practice skills with student
- ___ Parents can consider private tutoring or after-school homework support
- ___ Consider need for formal 504 accommodations or Special Education support
- ___ Consider different levels of support (resource room, consult teacher, self-contained setting)
- ___ Emphasize any areas of interest in academics content

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 Northwell
Cohen Children's Medical Center

ADHD Medication Guide

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www.ADHDMedicationGuide.com

ADHD Medication Guide*

Revised: July 1, 2025

Amphetamine Formulations – Long Acting, Oral** (Medications in this section are shown at actual size)										
Dyanavel® XR5 (d- & l-amphetamine sulfate) (bubblegum flavor)	6 Yrs-Adults: 2.5–20mg; SD: 2.5 or 5mg (biphasic – 20/80)		5mg		10mg		15mg		20mg	
Dyanavel® XR (d- & l-amphetamine sulfate) (bubblegum flavor)	6 Yrs-Adults: 2.5–20mg; SD: 2.5 or 5mg (biphasic – 20/80)	2.5mg 1mL	5mg 2mL	7.5mg 3mL	10mg 4mL	12.5mg 5mL	15mg 6mL	17.5mg 7mL	20mg 8mL	
Mydayis® (mixed amphetamine salts)	13–17 Yrs: 12.5–25mg; SD: 12.5mg Adults: 12.5–50mg; SD: 12.5mg (triphasic – 33.3/33.3/33.3)	12.5mg		25mg		37.5mg		50mg		
Adzenys XR-ODT® (d- & l-amphetamine) (orange flavor)	6–12 Yrs: 3.1–18.8mg; SD: 6.3mg 13–17 Yrs: 3.1–12.5mg; SD: 6.3mg Adults: 12.5mg (biphasic – 50/50)		3.1mg	6.3mg	9.4mg	12.5mg	15.7mg	18.8mg		
Adderall XR® (mixed amphetamine salts)	6–17 Yrs: 5–30mg; SD: 10mg Adults: 5–30mg; SD: 20mg (biphasic – 50/50)		5mg	10mg	15mg	20mg	25mg	30mg		
Dexedrine Spansule® (d-amphetamine sulfate)	6–17 Yrs: 10–60mg; SD: 5mg 1–2x/day		5mg	10mg	15mg					
Amphetamine Pro-Drug Formulations – Long Acting, Oral** (Medications in this section are shown at actual size)										
Vyvanse® (capsules) (lisdexamfetamine)	6 Yrs-Adults: 10–70mg; SD: 30mg	10mg	20mg	30mg	40mg	50mg	60mg	70mg		
Vyvanse® (chewables) (lisdexamfetamine) (strawberry flavor)	6 Yrs-Adults: 10–70mg; SD: 30mg	10mg	20mg	30mg	40mg	50mg	60mg			
Amphetamine Formulations – Short Acting, Oral** (Medications in this section are shown at actual size)										
Evekeo® (d- & l-amphetamine sulfate)	3–5 Yrs: SD: 2.5mg 1x/day 6–17 Yrs: 5–40mg divided BID; SD: 5mg 1–2x/day		5mg		10mg					
Zenzedi® (d-amphetamine sulfate)	3–5 Yrs: SD: 2.5mg 1x/day 6–17 Yrs: 5–40mg divided BID; SD: 5mg 1–2x/day	2.5mg	5mg	7.5mg	10mg	15mg	20mg	30mg		
Adderall® (mixed amphetamine salts)	3–5 Yrs: SD: 2.5mg 1x/day 6–17 Yrs: 5–40mg divided BID; SD: 5mg 1–2x/day		5mg	7.5mg	10mg	12.5mg	15mg	20mg	30mg	
ProCentra® (d-amphetamine sulfate) (bubblegum flavor)	3–5 Yrs: SD: 2.5mg 1x/day 6–17 Yrs: 5–40mg divided BID; SD: 5mg 1–2x/day		5mg/5mL							
Non-Stimulants** (Medications in this section are shown at actual size)										
Strattera® (atomoxetine)	<70kg: 0.5mg/kg x 2days, then 1.2mg/kg Intact: 4mg/kg, not to exceed 100mg >70 kg: 40mg x 2days, then 80mg (max:100mg)	10mg	18mg	25mg	40mg	60mg	80mg	100mg		
Qelbree® (viloxazine)	6–11 Yrs: 100–400mg; SD: 100mg 12–17 Yrs: 200–400mg; SD: 200mg Adults: 200–600mg; SD: 200mg	100mg	200mg	300mg	400mg					
Intuniv® (guanfacine, extended release)	6–12 Yrs: 1–4mg; SD: 1mg 13–17 Yrs: 1–4mg; SD: 1mg Weight-based dosing: SD: 0.05–0.08 mg/kg/day; may increase to 0.12 mg/kg/day	1mg	2mg	3mg	4mg					
Oryzta® XR (clonidine, extended release) (orange flavor)	<70kg: 0.5mg/kg x 2days, then 1.2mg/kg Intact: 4mg/kg, not to exceed 100mg >70 kg: 40mg x 2days, then 80mg (max:100mg)	0.1mg 1mL	0.2mg 2mL	0.3mg 3mL	0.4mg 4mL					
Kapvay® (clonidine, extended release)	6–17 Yrs: 0.1–0.2mg BID; SD: 0.1mg qHS	0.1mg								

Amphetamine Formulations - Long Acting, Transdermal

Xelstrym™ (d-amphetamine)
6-17 Yrs: 4.5–18mg;
SD: 4.5mg
Adults: 9–18mg;
SD: 9mg

4.5mg / 9hrs
~1.2" x 1.2"

9mg / 9hrs
~1.2" x 1.2"

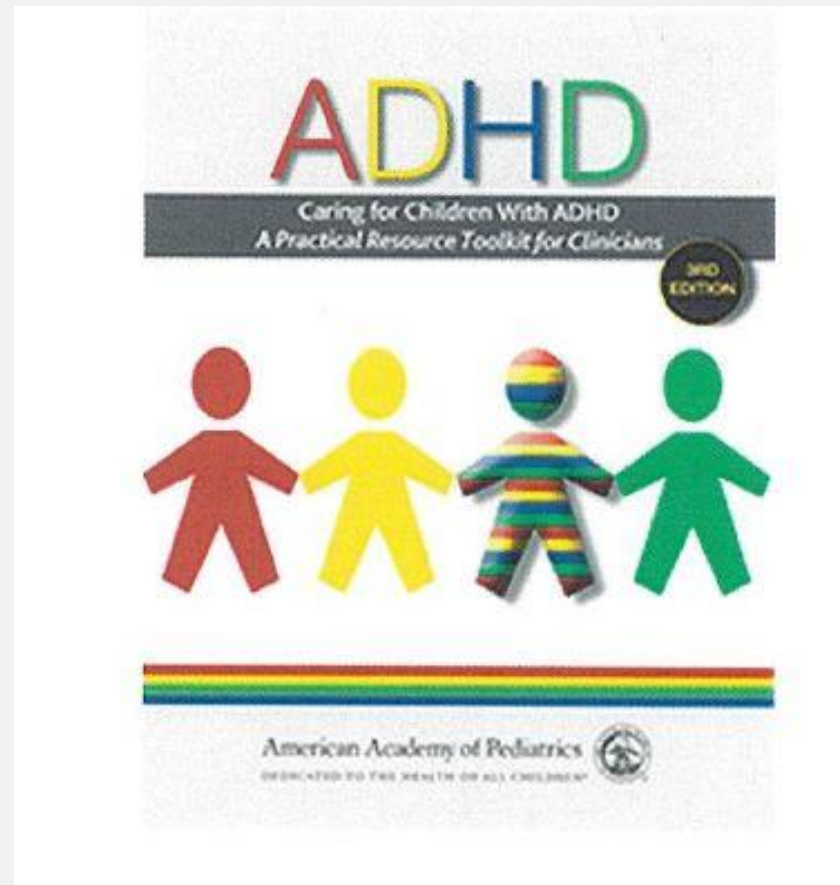
13.5mg / 9hrs
~1.5" x 1.5"

18mg / 9hrs
~1.7" x 1.7"

(Patches are shown at 100% actual size. The color border around each patch reflects the color of the packaging, not the patch itself.)

- Updated versions of the ADHD Medication Guide can be viewed at: www.ADHDMedicationGuide.com
- Laminated copies of the ADHD Medication Guide can be ordered on-line from the ADD Warehouse
- Contact Dr. Andrew Adesman with any comments or suggestions: ADHDMedGuide@Northwell.edu

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AAPP Pharmacist Toolkit: Addressing Stimulant Shortages

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This toolkit is intended to highlight both the evidence base available as well as strategies of clinical decision making used by expert clinicians. The content reflects the views and practice of the authors as substantiated with evidence-based facts as well as opinion and experience. The opinions and recommendations in this document reflect those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of their employers or AAPP.

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ADHD

Parents Medication Guide

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Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

Prepared by:

American Academy of Child
& Adolescent Psychiatry and
American Psychiatric Association
Supported by the Elaine Schlosser Lewis Fund

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