# **PARENT INFORMATION ON ADHD MEDICATIONS**

What are ADHD medications? — Most fall into the STIMULANT category — some are non-Stimulants,

**STIMULANTS**:

***Methylphenidates****:* Ritalin, Ritalin LA, Ritalln SR, Concerta, Metadate CD, Metadate ER, Focalin, Focalin XR, Methylin, Daytrana Patch, Quillivant ER, Quillichew, Cotempla XR„ODT, Jornay,

***Amphetamines:*** Dexedrine, Vyvanse, Adderall, Adderall XR, Adzenvs XR-ODT, Mydayis, Evekeo, Dyanavel, Procentra, Zenzedi

**NON-STIMULANTS**: Strattera, Clonidine, Tenex, Intuniv, Kapvay

When prescribed for Individuals who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), they stimulate parts of the brain which are not work as well as they should be. They are NOT tranquilizers or sedatives.

**How can these medications help?**

These medications Improve attention span, decrease distractibility, increase ability to finish tasks, improve ability to follow directions, decrease hyperactivity and improve ability to think before acting (decrease impulsivity). Legibility of handwriting and completion of school work and homework can improve. Aggression and stubbornness may decrease in children with ADHD. Stimulant medication is not the only answer for ADHD, however. The medicine often works best when used together with special help, school and behavior modifications procedures at home and school. Some patients and families also benefit from individual and family psychotherapy. If the medications do not help or cause side effects that are a problem, you can discuss other medications with the physician. 

**How long to the medications last?**

Some medications are short acting, and others are long acting. Ritalin, Adderall and Dexedrine are short acting and may last 3-4 hours and are often given multiple times during the day. Ritalin LA, Dexedrine Spansules, Adderall XR, Focalln XR, Vyvanse, Daytrana Patch, Concerta and Metadate CD are all long acting and may last anywhere from 6-7 hours or longer.

**How will the doctor monitor these medications?**

The physician will ask for regular reports from the parents regarding side effects, and regular reports from the teacher(s) to check on learning and improvement in behavior in the classroom, From time to time, the child's Pediatrician may be asked to check height, weight, pulse and blood pressure.

**What side effects can these medications have?**

Any medication may have side effects, including allergies to the medication. Because each patient Is different, your physician will work with you to get the most positive effects and the fewest negative effects from the medication. This list may not include all of the side effects. **Please talk to your physician if you suspect the medication is causing a problem**

**When should take this medicine?**

It is important to encourage a good breakfast and afternoon snacks before taking an afternoon dose. \*\* ***Give medications AFTER meals, rather than before.*** Do NOT give any acidic Juices (such as grapefruit Juice, orange juice) one hour before Or after you give the medication. Rarely after the medicine wears off, hyperactivity or bad moods may get worse than before the medicine was started. This is called "rebound." The doctor can make a dosage adjustment to help this problem.

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| **Common Side Effects** |  | **Serious Side Effects** |
| Trouble falling asleep, Decreased Appetite |  | Muscle Tics |
| Headaches, stomach aches |  | Jerky movements |
| Irritability, Crankiness |  | Sadness lasting more than a few |
| Crying, emotional sensitivity |  | Any behavior that is unusual for your child |
| Loss of Interest in friends |  | Stuttering |
| Rapid pulse |  |  |
| Increase in Blood Pressure |  |  |

**What could happen If this medicine Is stopped suddenly?**

There are no medical problems in doing this. A few patients may experience irritability, trouble sleeping or increased hyperactivity for a day or two if they have been on the medicine for a long time, especially at above average doses.

**How long will this medicine be needed?**

There Is no way to know how long a person will need to take the medicine, The parent, doctor, therapist and the school will work together to find out what is right for each patient. Sometimes the medicine is needed for only a few years, but some people may need help from medicine even as adults.

**What else should I know about these medications?**

Many people have incorrect information about these medications. If you hear anything that worries you, please check with the physician.  **This medicine does not cause use of Illegal drugs or addiction.** Thismedicine does not stop working after puberty. Depending on the medicine the physician prescribes you may be taking the medicine only once or a day or up to three times a day. You and your doctor will work out what is best.

If the medicine seems to stop working, it may be because it is not being given regularly (especially at school); OR your child has gained weight and needs a higher dose, OR because of something at school or at home that Is upsetting the child. Please discuss these concerns with your doctor. Please DO NOT combine this medicine with other medications without first checking with your doctor.

Check with your pharmacist before takin