

ADHD/ADD Medication: An Overview of Contemporary Treatments

RITALIN

Manufacturer: Novartis

What is it?

- Stimulant containing methylphenidate hydrochloride
- Comes in immediate release tablet form taken 2-3 times a day

Who is it for?

- Used as part of comprehensive treatment programme for treating ADHD and is only used when other treatments prove insufficient on their own

How does it work?

- Affects the natural chemicals in the brain, dopamine and noradrenaline. Helps to improve attention and behavioural issue
- Should not be taken by children under 6 years of age

CONCERTA

Manufacturer: Ortho-McNeil- Janssen Pharmaceuticals

What is it?

- Stimulant drug containing methylphenidate
- Is used to treat ADD, ADHD and narcolepsy
- Is available in immediate release and extended release formulas

Who is it for?

- Not suitable for those with; glaucoma, Tourette's or severe anxiety
- Prescribed to children with ADD and ADHD

How does it work?

- It works by changing the amounts of certain chemicals in the brain such as dopamine and noradrenaline
- Helps to increase the ability to pay attention, maintain focus on an activity, and control problematic behaviours

ELVANSE

Manufacturer: Shire

What is it?

- A stimulant drug containing lisdexamfetamine dimesylate
- Released in the UK in 2015
- Comes in capsule form that can be swallowed whole or opened and emptied over food if preferred
- Contains a slow-release formula which keeps working throughout the day
- Dosage ranges from 20mg to 70mg capsules

Who is it for?

- Generally prescribed to children between the ages of 6-18 years old
- Can also be prescribed to adults
- Is usually given as part of a treatment programme combining therapy and medication

How does it work?

- Increases brain activity in areas responsible for attention and self-control
- Helps to focus attention, improves concentration and reduces impulsive behavior

EQUASYM XL

Manufacturer: Shire

What is it?

- Is a stimulant containing methylphenidate hydrochloride which is used to treat ADHD
- Comes in capsule form
- Dosage ranges from 10mg to 60mg capsules
- Contains a slow release formula

Who is it for?

- Prescribed to children with ADHD who have not responded well to other medications/treatments
- Can be continued into adolescence and adulthood if symptoms continue and the patient is still benefiting from the medicine

How does it work?

- Increases the activity of dopamine and noradrenaline
- Increases activity in areas of the brain related to attention and control
- Helps to reduce impulsive behaviours

MEDIKINET XL

Manufacturer: Flynn Pharma

What is it?

- Stimulant containing methylphenidate hydrochloride
- Comes in capsule form that can be swallowed whole or opened and sprinkled on food
- Contains a slow-release formula and is to be taken once a day in the morning
- Dosage ranges from 5mg to 60mg capsules

Who is it for?

- It is used to treat the symptoms of ADHD in children
- Medicine can be continued into adolescence and adulthood
- Is often used as part of treatment programmes including therapy and behavioural management

How does it work?

- Increases the activity of naturally occurring chemicals in the brain, dopamine, and noradrenaline
- Improves the functioning of the brain areas controlling attention and behaviour

STRATTERA

Manufacturer: Eli Lilly

What is it?

- One of the few non-stimulant drugs available in the UK to treat ADHD
- Contains atomoxetine which affects the chemicals and nerves in the brain that control hyperactivity and impulse control
- Comes in capsule form and is to be taken once or twice daily

- Can take up to 2 weeks to see changes in behaviour and 4-6 weeks for any significant improvements
- Dosage ranges from Lacks potential for dependence and abuse

Who is it for?

- Can be prescribed to children, adolescents, and adults.
- Is suitable for adults with ADHD and comorbid anxiety disorders as it doesn't worsen anxiety

How does it work?

- Strattera acts as a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor or SSRI to block the reuptake of noradrenaline in the brain
- Increases the ability to pay attention and decreases hyperactivity

INTUNIV

Manufacturer: Shire

What is it?

- Is a non-stimulant drug containing guanfacine
- Is the only other non-stimulant drug for treating ADHD/ADD in the UK other than Strattera
- Launched in the UK in 2016
- Contains a slow-release formula
- Comes in tablet form
- Dosage ranges from 1mg to 3mg tablets

Who is it for?

- Is prescribed to treat ADHD in children and adolescents aged 6-17 years old
- Is recommended for those who don't respond well to stimulants

- Must be used as part of a treatment programme which can involve social, psychological, and educational measures

How does it work?

- Increases the activity of noradrenaline in areas of the brain controlling behaviour, memory, and co-ordination

DELMOSART

Manufacturer: Accord

What is it?

- Stimulant containing methylphenidate hydrochloride
- Comes in prolonged release
- Dosage ranges 18mg-54mg
- Initially 18mg x1-daily increase weekly

Who is it for?

- Used to treat ADHD
- It is used in children and young people between the ages 6-18
- Use only after trying treatments which do not involve medicines such as counselling & behavioural therapy.

How does it work?

- Improves the activity of certain parts of the brain which are underactive.
- Improves attention concentration & reduce impulsive behaviour.



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