

# Medications Used for TREATMENT OF ADHD

## Take Home Points

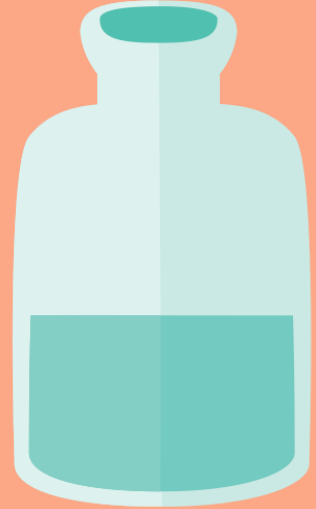
-How a medication and therapy works for an individual child will vary.

-Know the name of your child's medication, the time it is given and how long it works.

-A child's growth, blood pressure and heart rate are monitored before and during treatment to observe any changes.

-Stimulants are considered safe and effective for the treatment of pediatric ADHD.

-Bringing in school work samples and report cards can help parents and the pediatrician understand how the medication is affecting the child.



Common side effects if they occur include:

- Stomachaches
- Headaches
- Loss of appetite
- Sleep problems
- Tics



There are many different types of medications to treat ADHD. The best one is the one that leads to the best possible effect without side effects.



Treatment with one medication will be maximized to achieve the optimal effect with fewest side effects before a change to another medicine is considered.

Less common side effects; reason to change medication or dose:

- Weight loss
- Dizziness
- Increased hyperactivity
- Sadness or irritability in late afternoon/evening



Watch for desired effects and side effects. Ask their child's teacher/daycare provider for their thoughts too.

When medicines are started, the pediatrician may start with a low dose and then increase the medicine depending on what the parent, notices and share with the pediatrician



Starting medication changes on the weekend will help the parent see the effects.

Parents and the pediatrician should talk about the desired effect of the medication, any side effects, and child's functioning at home and school at each visit.



Remember medicine is used to help your child function at home and school,  
NOT to become a "zombie" or "over-focused".