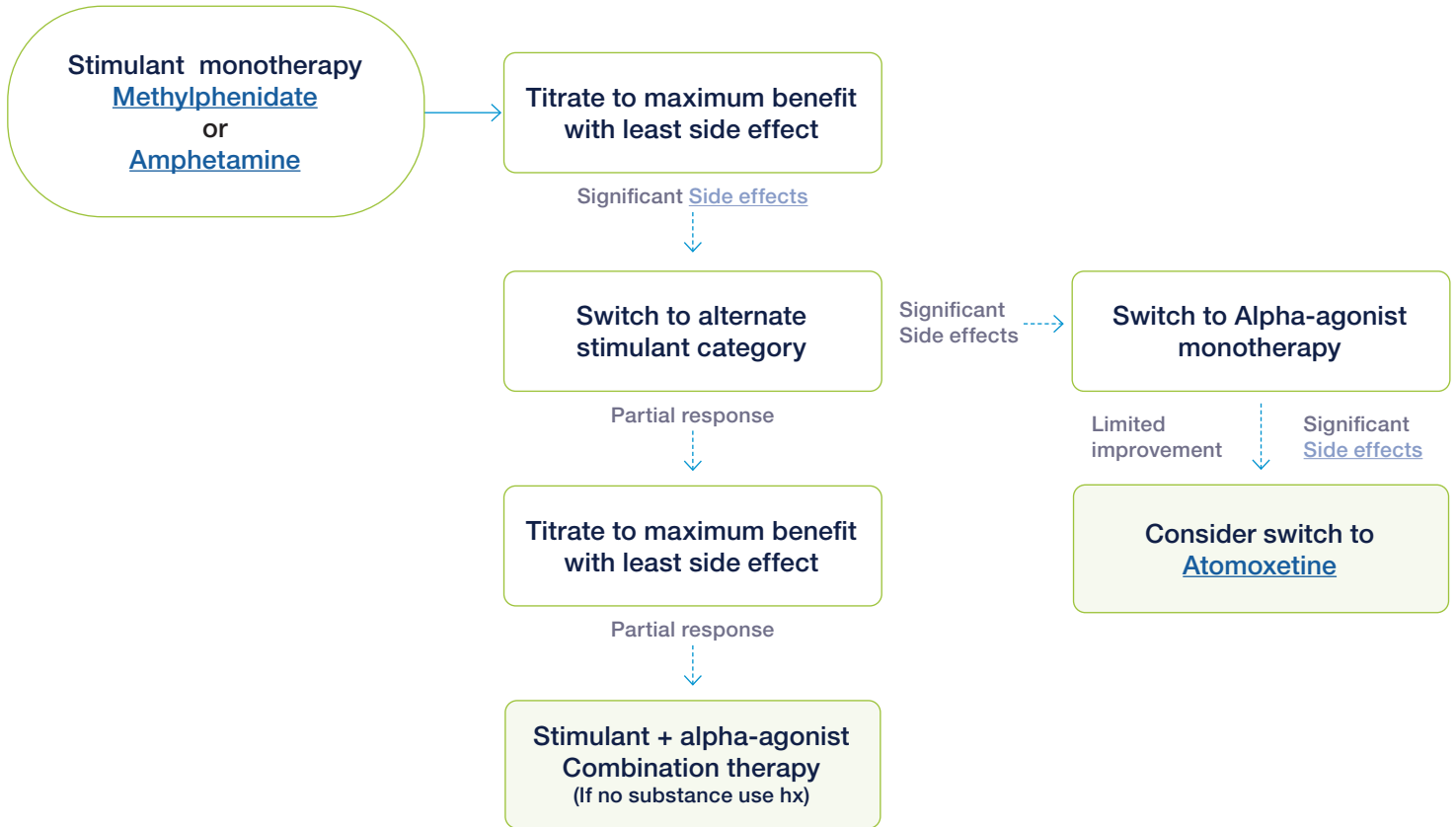


ADHD Medication Management Algorithm



[Text only version](#)

Adapted from: AACAP: "Practice Parameter for the Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder". JAACAP 46(7): July 2007:894-921

Jellineck M, Patel BP, Froehle MC eds. (2002): Bright Futures in Practice: Mental Health-Volume 1. Practice Guide. Arlington, VA: National Center for Education in Maternal and Child Health: 203-211

Side Effects of Stimulants and management strategies

Stimulant Side Effect	Management Strategies
Appetite loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess parenting, meal time routines, and adjust timing of dinner • Assess for other causes of eating disturbance • Administer stimulant after meals • Encourage high caloric, high protein snacks • Consider shorter-acting stimulant or switch stimulant • Consider drug holidays on weekends, and on breaks
Sleep disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess, optimize sleep hygiene, bedtime routines • Assess for other sleep disorders • If using IR form: decrease or eliminate PM dose, or give earlier • If using ER form: Administer earlier in AM, or switch to short-acting form
Headaches Abdominal pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage adequate hydration, supportive care • Consider switching to a different stimulant, if not able to tolerate
Irritability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess for other causes of emotional problems • When is the behavior worse? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the medicine peak period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lower dosage ◆ Switch to different stimulant • During medicine wear-off period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Add short-acting dose in PM for booster (to curb crash) ◆ Switch to different formulation of stimulant ◆ Consider longer-acting formulation
Mood changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess for other causes of mood changes, withdrawal (depression, anxiety) • Consider lowering dose • Consider switching to different stimulant
Tics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that stimulants do NOT exacerbate tics on average • Tics are common and usually transient in children, wax and wane on own • Weigh benefits of improved ADHD vs degree of impairment with tics • Consider lowering dose of stimulant • Consider switching to different stimulant • Consider adding or switching to an alpha-agonist

ADHD Medications

Methylphenidate

Methylphenidate Name	Dosage form (mg)	Dosing Frequency	FDA Max dosage (mg)	Special considerations
Short Acting (3-4 hours)				
Focalin IR (Dexmethylphenidate)	2.5, 5, 10	Daily, BID, (TID)	20	Generic(+)
Methylin (Methylphenidate)	2.5, 5, 10, 20		60	Liquid & Chewable tab Generic(+)
Ritalin® (Methylphenidate)	5, 10, 20		60	*Can be crushed Generic(+)
Intermediate (6-8 hours)				
Metadate CD® (30%IR, 70% ER)	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60,	daily in AM	60	Can be sprinkled Generic(+)
Ritalin LA (50%IR, 50% DR)	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60,		60	Can be sprinkled Generic(+)
Methylin ER	10, 20		60	Generic(+)
Metadate ER	10, 20		60	Generic(+)
Quillichew ER®	20,30,40		60	Chewable tab
Long acting (10-12 hours)				
Concerta®	8, 27, 36, 54	daily in AM	72	Do not open or chew, osmotic pump cap Generic(+)
Focalin XR® (Dexmethylphenidate 50%IR, 50% ER)	5, 10, 15, 20		30	Can be sprinkled Generic(+)
Quillivant XR® (20% IR, 80% ER)	Liquid 25 mg/5 ml		60	25mg/5ml Liquid (60ml, 120ml, 150ml, 180ml)
Daytrana®	10, 15, 20, 30		30	Transdermal Patch, Remove after 9 hrs lasts 3-5 hrs post removal

ADHD Medications

Amphetamine

Amphetamine Name	Dosage form (mg)	Dosing Frequency	FDA Max dosage (mg)	Special considerations
Short Acting (4-8 hours)				
Adderall® (Amphetamine-Dextroamphetamine)	5, 7.5, 10, 12.5, 15, 20, 30	Daily, BID, (TID) daily in AM	40	Generic(+)
Dexedrine, Dextro Stat® (Dextroamphetamine)	5, 10		40	Generic(+)
Zenzedi®	2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30		40	
Evekeo®	5, 10		40	
ProCentra® (Dextroamphetamine)	5mg/5ml		40	Liquid (473 ml/bottle) Generic (+) Duration: 4-8 hour
Long acting (8-12 hours)				
Adderall XR® (Amphetamine-dextroamphetamine, 50%IR, 50%ER)	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	daily in AM	30	Can be sprinkled Generic(+)
Vyvanse® (Lisdexamphetamine)	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70		70	Capsule form & Chewable form
Dexedrine Spansule (Dextroamphetamine)	5, 10, 15		40	*Can be sprinkled Generic(+)
Dyanavel XR®	2.5mg/ml		20	Liquid (464 ml/bottle)
Adzenys XR®	1.25mg/ml		12.5-18.8	Liquid (450 ml/bottle) ODT form