

ADHD Medication Tables

This medication table was compiled to assist clinicians in selecting medications for treatment of ADHD. It provides information about different classes of medications, dosing options, estimated duration of effect, and timing of immediate vs. longer-acting medication release (when available). It also includes formulations, such as chewable, liquid, patch, capsules with contents that can be sprinkled, and tablets that can be divided, flavors, generic and brand options for prescribing, and FDA-approval status. The medication information is provided as a reference only. More current information may be available. Please see sources listed at the bottom of the page. The [ADHD Medication Guide \(Cohen Children's Medical Center\)](#) provides pictures of each type of medication.

FDA-APPROVED STIMULANTS	
All in each Class/Type approved for ≥6 years old unless otherwise noted.	
Methylphenidate (MPH) class	Unless otherwise noted, onset of action is within 60 minutes.
Short-acting (3-6 hours)	May need 2-3 doses daily
dexmethylphenidate tablets* (4-6 hours)	2.5, 5, 10 mg tablets
Focalin (4-6 hours)	2.5, 5, 10 mg tablets
methylphenidate tablets* (3-4 hours)	5, 10, 20 mg tablets
Ritalin (3-4 hours)	2.5, 5 (scored), 10 (scored) mg tablets
methylphenidate oral solution* (3-4 hours)	5 mg/5 mL, 10 mg/10 mL grape-flavored liquid
Methylin (3-4 hours)	5 mg/5 mL, 10 mg/10 mL grape-flavored liquid
methylphenidate chewable tablets* (3-4 hours)	2.5, 5, 10 mg grape-flavored chewable tablets
Methylin (3-4 hours)	2.5, 5, 10 mg grape-flavored chewable tablets
Intermediate-acting (6-8 hours)	May follow with short acting or repeat dose
methylphenidate extended release tablets* (6-8 hours)	10 mg, 20 mg tablets
Metadate ER (6-8 hours)	20 mg tablets. [The ER effect is shorter than Metadate CD.]
Other extended release methylphenidate formulations (no generic available)	
QuilliChew ER (8 hours)	20, 30, 40 mg cherry-flavored chewable tablets (30% IR/70% SR)
Long-acting (8-12+ hours)	Give once daily
dexmethylphenidate extended release capsules* (8-12 hours)	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 mg capsules (can be sprinkled)
Focalin XR (8-12 hours)	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 mg capsules (can be sprinkled) (50% IR/50% SR)
methylphenidate extended release capsules* (8-12 hours)	10, 20, 30, 40, 60 mg capsules (can be sprinkled)

Aptensio XR (12 hours)	10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50 60 mg capsules (can be sprinkled) (40% IR/60% SR)
Metadate CD (8-10 hours)	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 mg capsules (can be sprinkled) (30% IR/70% SR). Ages 6-15 years.
Ritalin LA (8-12 hours)	10, 20, 30, 40, 60 mg capsules (can be sprinkled) (50% IR/50% SR). Ages 6-12 years.
methylphenidate extended release (24 hour) tablets* (10-12 hours)	18, 27, 36, 54, 72 mg tablets (22% IR, 78% spread evenly the rest of the day), lasts 10-12 hours
Concerta (10-12 hours)	18, 27, 36, 54 mg tablets (22% IR, 78% spread evenly the rest of the day)
Relexxi (10-12 hours)	72 mg tablets (22% IR, 78% spread evenly the rest of the day)
Other extended-release methylphenidate formulations (no generic available)	
Adhansia XR (16 hours)	25, 35, 45, 55, 70, 85 mg capsules (can be sprinkled) (20% IR/80% SR)
Cotempla XR-ODT (12-13 hours)	8.6, 17.3, 25.9 mg grape-flavored oral dissolving tablets (25% IR/75% SR)
Daytrana (11 hours)	10, 15, 20, 30 mg transdermal patch. Effect starts very slowly, approx. 2 hrs. after patch applied, and effect wanes for 2 hours after removal at 9 hours.
Jornay PM (12-14 hours)	20, 40, 60, 80, 100 mg capsules (can be sprinkled). This is given in the evening; effect starts about 12 hours later and lasts all day.
Quillivant XR (12 hours)	powder for oral suspension or fruit-flavored liquid 25 mg/5 mL (20% IR/80% SR)
Amphetamine Class	Unless otherwise noted, onset of action is within 60 minutes.
Short-acting (4-6 hours)	Give 1-2 times daily
amphetamine tablets* (4-6 hours)	5 (scored), 10 (quadrisection-scored) mg tablets
Evekeo (4-6 hours)	5 (scored), 10 (quadrisection-scored) mg tablets
dextroamphetamine-amphetamine tablets (mixed amphetamine salts)*^ (4-6 hours)	5, 7.5, 10 (scored), 12.5, 15, 20 (scored), 30 (scored) mg tablets
Adderall^ (4-6 hours)	5, 7.5, 10 (scored), 12.5, 15, 20 (scored), 30 (scored) mg tablets
dextroamphetamine tablets*^^ (4-6 hours)	5 (scored), 10 (quadrisection-scored) mg tablets
Dexedrine^^ (4-6 hours)	5 (scored), 10 (quadrisection-scored) mg tablets
Zenzedi^^ (4-6 hours)	2.5, 5 (scored), 7.5, 10 (quadrisection-scored), 15, 20, 30 mg tablets
dextroamphetamine oral solution*^^ (4-6 hours)	5 mg/5 mL bubble gum-flavored oral solution
ProCentra^^ (4-6 hours)	5 mg/5 mL bubble gum-flavored oral solution

Amphetamine Class (Continued...)	Unless otherwise noted, onset of action is within 60 minutes.
Short-acting (4-6 hours) (Continued)	Give 1-2 times daily
Other short-acting formulations (no generic available)	
Evekeo ODT (amphetamine) (4-6 hours)	5, 10, 15, 20 mg slightly bitter oral dissolving tablets
Desoxyn (methamphetamine) (4-6 hours)	5 mg tablets
Long-acting (8-12+ hours)	Give once daily
amphetamine extended release oral suspension* (10-12 hours)	1.25 mg/mL orange-flavored liquid solution (50%IR/50% SR) How Are Dexedrine & Adderall (MedicalNewsToday)
Adzenys ER (10-12 hours)	1.25 mg/mL orange-flavored liquid solution (50% IR/50% SR) How Are Dexedrine & Adderall (MedicalNewsToday)
Dyanavel XR (13 hours)	2.5 mg/mL bubble gum-flavored liquid solution
dextroamphetamine-amphetamine extended release capsules (mixed amphetamine salts)* (10-12 hours)	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 mg capsules (can sprinkle), 3:1 ratio of d:l isomers (50% IR/50% SR) How Are Dexedrine & Adderall (MedicalNewsToday)
Adderall XR (10-12 hours)	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 mg capsules (can sprinkle). 3:1 ratio of d:l isomers (50% IR/50% SR) How Are Dexedrine & Adderall (MedicalNewsToday)
Mydayis XR (14-16 hours)	12.5, 25, 37.5, 50 mg capsules (can sprinkle). Triple bead for relatively even effect over the day. Ages ≥13 years.
dextroamphetamine extended release capsule*^^ (5-10 hours)	5, 10, 15 mg capsules, immediate action then even release of remaining dose
Dexedrine Spansules^^ (5-10 hours)	5, 10, 15 mg capsules, immediate action then even release of remaining dose
lisdexamfetamine capsules* (10-13 hours)	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 mg capsules (can dissolve in water), peaks in 3.5 hours
Vyvanse (10-13 hours)	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 mg capsules (can dissolve in water), peaks in 3.5 hours
Other extended-release formulations (no generic available)	
Adzenys ER-ODT (amphetamine) (10-12 hours)	3.1, 6.3, 9.4, 12.5, 15.7, 18.8 mg orange-flavored oral dissolving tablets (50% IR/50% SR) How Are Dexedrine & Adderall (MedicalNewsToday)
Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine) chewables (10-13 hours)	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 mg strawberry-flavored chewable tablets
Notes: Not all approved formulations may be available commercially.	
* = generic	^^ = approved for ≥3 - 16 years old.
^ = approved for ≥3 years old.	IR/SR = immediate release/sustained release

FDA-APPROVED NON-STIMULANTS

Used as monotherapy or in addition to stimulants. Initial effect in 1-2 weeks, longer for full effect. Require consistent daily dosing. All approved for ≥6 years old

Selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors	
atomoxetine (Strattera)	10, 18, 25, 40, 60, 80, 100 mg capsules. Cannot sprinkle. Given 1-2x per day; giving BID can reduce side effects. Can take several weeks to build full effect.
Alpha-2 adrenergic agonists	
guanfacine extended release (Intuniv)	1, 2, 3, 4 mg tabs, once daily either QHS or QAM.
clonidine extended release (Kapvay)	0.1 and 0.2 mg tabs, at least 10-12 hours, QHS or BID

OFF-LABEL OPTIONS

Not FDA-approved for treatment of ADHD in children but occasionally used to help manage ADHD symptoms.

Alpha-2 adrenergic agonists	
clonidine immediate release* (Catapres)	Give first dose at bedtime. May increase up to 4 times daily. Lacking safety and efficacy data for use in children.
clonidine film extended release transdermal* (Catapres-TTP)	7-day patch. Lacking safety and efficacy data for use in children.
guanfacine immediate release* (Tenex)	FDA-approved for treatment of hypertension in children ≥12 yrs. Give first dose at bedtime. May increase up to 4 times daily. Hallucinations have been reported in pediatric patients receiving Tenex for treatment of ADHD.
Antidepressants	
imipramine* (Tofranil)	Tricyclic. FDA-approved for treatment of enuresis in ages ≥ 6 years.
nortriptyline* (Pamelor)	Tricyclic. Lacking safety and efficacy data for use in children.
bupropion* (Wellbutrin, Zyban)	Inhibits reuptake of dopamine, serotonin, and norepinephrine. Lacking safety and efficacy data for use in children.
venlafaxine extended release* (Effexor XR)	Serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor. Lacking safety and efficacy data for use in children.
Central nervous system stimulants	
modafinil* (Provigil)	Treats excessive sleepiness in adults; used off-label infrequently for treatment of ADHD. Lacking safety and efficacy data for use in children.

RESOURCES

[ADHD Medication Guide \(Cohen Children's Medical Center\)](#)

A visual aid for professionals caring for individuals with ADHD. The guide includes only medications indicated for the treatment of ADHD by the FDA. In clinical practice, this guide may be used to assist patients in identifying medications previously tried, and may allow clinicians to identify ADHD medication options for the future.

[Pediatric Psychopharmacology for Primary Care Digital Tool \(AAP\)](#)

Content includes Drug Lookup, Clinical Guidance, Training, What to Do When Initial Treatment Is Not Successful, and Links to Additional Resources; American Academy of Pediatrics.

Sources:

Drug reference websites:

- [Drugs@FDA](#)
- [MedlinePlus](#)
- [Drugs.com](#)
- [FDA Listing of Approved Generics as of April 2020](#)