

# ADHD Medications: Beyond the Basics

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1

## Objectives

- Describe the main categories of medication-based treatment for ADHD, including stimulants, alpha-agonists and other medications.
- Identify appropriate starting doses of stimulants
- Covert dosages between methylphenidate medications and mixed-amphetamine salt medications, and vice versa.

2

## Agenda

- ADHD Medication Review:
  - Methylphenidates
  - Mixed Amphetamine Salts
  - Other Medications
- Starting stimulants
  - Start low, go all the way, don't overshoot.
- Switching within and between stimulant classes
  - Methylphenidates
  - Mixed Amphetamine Salts
  - Methylphenidates to Mixed Amphetamine Salts
  - Mixed Amphetamine Salts to Methylphenidates

3

## ADHD Medication Review - Stimulants

- Methylphenidate Derivatives:

Medication Name (Brand)	Medication Name (Generic)	Different Formulations		
Ritalin IR	Methylphenidate IR	Tablet, chewable, liquid		

4

## ADHD Medication Review - Stimulants

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Concerta	Methylphenidate HCl ER	Capsule		

5

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Ritalin LA	Methylphenidate LA	Capsule		

6

## ADHD Medication Review - Stimulants

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Ritalin IR	Methylphenidate IR	Tablet, chewable, liquid		
Concerta	Methylphenidate HCl ER	Capsule		
Ritalin LA	Methylphenidate LA	Capsule		
Focalin	Dexmethylphenidate HCl ER	Capsule		

7

## ADHD Medication Review - Stimulants

- Mixed Amphetamine Salt Derivatives:

Medication Name (Brand)	Medication Name (Generic)	Different Formulations		
Adderall IR	Amphetamine and Dextroamphetamine Mixed Salts	Tablet, chewable, liquid		

8

## ADHD Medication Review - Stimulants

- Mixed Amphetamine Salt Derivatives:

Medication Name (Brand)	Medication Name (Generic)	Different Formulations		
Adderall IR	Amphetamine and Dextroamphetamine Mixed Salts	Tablet, chewable, liquid		
Adderall XR	Amphetamine and Dextroamphetamine Mixed Salts XR	Capsule		

9

## ADHD Medication Review - Stimulants

- Mixed Amphetamine Salt Derivatives:

Medication Name (Brand)	Medication Name (Generic)	Different Formulations		
Adderall IR	Amphetamine and Dextroamphetamine Mixed Salts	Tablet, chewable, liquid		
Adderall XR	Amphetamine and Dextroamphetamine Mixed Salts XR	Capsule		
Vyvanse	Lisdexamphetamine	Capsule		

10

## ADHD Medication Review – Other Medications

- “Other Medications” to treat ADHD:

Medication Name (Brand)	Medication Name (Generic)	Different Formulations
Tenex	Guanfacine IR	Tablet
Intuniv	Guanfacine ER	Capsule
Catapres	Clonidine IR	Tablet
Kapvay	Clonidine ER	Capsule
Wellbutrin XL	Bupropion ER	Capsule
Strattera	Atomoxetine	Capsule

11

## ADHD Medication Review – Stimulant Starting Dose and Max Dose

- Methylphenidate Derivatives:

Medication Name (Brand)	Medication Name (Generic)	Different Formulations	Starting Dose	Max Dose
Ritalin IR	Methylphenidate IR	Tablet, chewable, liquid	2.5 mg BID	

12

## ADHD Medication Review – Stimulant Starting Dose and Max Dose

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Concerta	Methylphenidate HCl ER	Capsule	18 mg daily	72 mg daily

13

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Concerta	Methylphenidate HCl ER	Capsule	18 mg daily	72 mg daily
Ritalin LA	Methylphenidate LA	Capsule	10 mg daily	60 mg daily

14

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Concerta	Methylphenidate HCl ER	Capsule	18 mg daily	72 mg daily
Ritalin LA	Methylphenidate LA	Capsule	10 mg daily	60 mg daily
Focalin	Dexmethylphenidate HCl ER	Capsule	5 mg daily	30 mg daily

15

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16



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Adderall XR	Amphetamine and Dextroamphetamine Mixed Salts XR	Capsule	5 mg daily	30 mg daily

17

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Adderall XR	Amphetamine and Dextroamphetamine Mixed Salts XR	Capsule	5 mg daily	30 mg daily
Vyvanse	Lisdexamphetamine	Capsule	10 mg	70 mg daily

18

## A few pearls about starting ADHD medications...

- What is your approach to starting ADHD medications (specifically, stimulants) in a kindergartener or first grader?
- Which allows a lower starting dose with standard pill formulations, Ritalin IR 2.5 mg or Adderall IR 2.5 mg? Put differently, Adderall IR 2.5 mg is approximately equivalent to what dose of Ritalin IR?
- How is your approach to initiating medications different or similar when starting medication in a middle schooler or high schooler vs. in an early elementary student?

19

## Switching within Stimulant Classes - Methylphenidates

- Can you convert:
  - Ritalin IR 10 mg BID to Focalin XR?
  - 15 mg Focalin XR to Concerta?
  - Concerta 36 mg to Ritalin LA?

20

## Switching within Stimulant Classes – Mixed Amphetamine Salts

- Can you convert:
  - Adderall 5 mg IR TID to Adderall XR?
  - Adderall 5 mg IR TID to Vyvanse?
  - Adderall XR 15 mg to Vyvanse?
  - Vyvanse 60 mg to Adderall XR?

21

THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SLIDE  
OF THIS PRESENTATION!

**Ritalin IR 5 mg**

**≈**

**Adderall IR 2.5 mg**

22

## Converting from Methylphenidate Derivatives to Mixed Amphetamine Salt Derivatives

- 1. Convert the current long acting methylphenidate medication to Ritalin IR equivalents
- 2. Convert Ritalin IR equivalents to Adderall IR equivalents
- 3. Convert Adderall IR equivalents to long acting mixed amphetamine salt derivative medication
- 4. Consider decreasing by 1 dose step, particularly if changing classes due to intolerable side effects.

23

## Converting from Methylphenidate Derivatives to Mixed Amphetamine Salt Derivatives

### Let's Practice!

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### Practice Problems:

- Focalin XR 15 mg PO daily to Adderall XR
- Concerta 72 mg PO daily to Vyvanse

24

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- 2. Convert Adderall IR equivalents to Ritalin IR equivalents
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25

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- 2. Convert Adderall IR equivalents to Ritalin IR equivalents
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- 4. Consider decreasing by 1 dose step, particularly if changing classes due to intolerable side effects.

Adderall XR 10 mg PO daily to Metadate CD

Vyvanse 70 mg PO daily to Focalin XR

Vyvanse 70 mg PO daily to Concerta

26

Questions?

Feel free to ask any questions now  
(unmute or chat),  
or you can email me at [millerrc4@upmc.edu](mailto:millerrc4@upmc.edu)