

The Official 2010 TCPR ADHD Medication Comparison Chart

Medication	Dose (starting-max)	Available Strengths (in mg except where noted)	Duration of Action	Can it be Split?	Generic Available?	Ages Approved for ADHD	Delivery System/Notes
Methylphenidates							
<i>Short-acting</i>							
Ritalin	5 mg BID-20 mg TID	5, 10, 20	3-4 h	yes	yes	6-17, adults	Immediate release tablet
Focalin (dexmethylphenidate)	2.5 mg BID-10 mg BID	2.5, 5, 10	3-4 h	yes	no	6-17, adults	Tablet. D-enantiomer of Ritalin
Methylin	5 mg BID-20 mg TID	5, 10, 20	3-4 h	yes	branded generic of Ritalin	6-17, adults	Immediate release tablet
Methylin CT	5 mg BID-20 mg TID	2.5, 5, 10	3-4 h	yes	no	6-17, adults	Chewable tablet
Methylin Oral Solution	5 mg BID-30 mg BID	5 mg/5ml, 10 mg/5ml	3-4 h	NA	no	6-17, adults	Clear, grape-flavored liquid
<i>Intermediate-acting</i>							
Ritalin SR	10 mg q AM-60 mg q AM	20	4-8 h	no	yes	6-17, adults	Continuous release tablet (less predictable because of wax matrix)
Metadate ER	10 mg q AM-30 mg BID (max 60mg/day)	10, 20	6-8 h	no	branded generic of Ritalin SR	6-17, adults	Continuous release tablet (less predictable because of wax matrix)
Methylin ER	20 mg q AM-60 mg q AM	10, 20	4-8 h	no	branded generic of Ritalin SR	6-17, adults	Hydrophilic polymer tablet; possibly more continuous than others in category
<i>Long-acting</i>							
Concerta	18 mg q AM-72 mg q AM (if 12+ y.o.)	18, 27, 36, 54	10-16 h	no	no	6-12: up to 54 mg; 12+: up to 72 mg	Initial, then continuous, release capsule. Hard shell may make it more difficult to abuse.
Daytrana (methylphenidate transdermal system)	10-30 mg q AM. Remove after 9 hours	10, 15, 20, 30	8-12 h	no	no	6-12 only	Continuous release patch. Duration can be shortened by decreasing wear time
Focalin XR (dexmethylphenidate XR)	6-17: 5 mg q AM-30 mg q AM; adults: 10 mg q AM-40 mg q AM	5, 10, 15, 20, 30	8-12 h	can be sprinkled; do not crush or chew	no	6-17, adults	Capsule of 50% immediate release beads & 50% delayed release beads. Mimics BID dosing
Metadate CD	20-60 mg q AM	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60	9-12 h	can be sprinkled; do not crush or chew	no	6+	Capsule of 30% immediate release beads & 70% delayed release beads. Mimics BID dosing
Ritalin LA	20-60 mg q AM	10, 20, 30, 40	8-12 h	can be sprinkled; do not crush or chew	no	6+	Capsule of 50% immediate release beads & 50% delayed release beads
Amphetamines							
<i>Short-acting</i>							
Dexrostat (dextroamphetamine)	3-5: 2.5mg qAM-20 mg BID; 5-16: 5 mg q AM-20 mg BID	5, 10	3-5 h	yes	branded generic of Dexedrine	3-16	Tablet
Liquadd (dextroamphetamine)	5-20mg BID	5 mg/5 ml	3-5 h	N/A	no	3-16	Bubble-gum flavored liquid
Desoxyn (methamphetamine)	5 mg q AM-10 mg BID	5	3-5 h	yes	yes	6-17, adults	Tablet
<i>Intermediate-acting</i>							
Adderall	5-30 mg BID or 5-60 mg q AM	5, 7.5, 10, 12.5, 15, 20, 30	4-8 h	can be crushed	yes	3+	Tablet. Mixed salt of l- and d-amphetamine
<i>Long-acting</i>							
Dexedrine Spansules (dextroamphetamine)	5 mg q AM-20 mg BID	5, 10, 15	10-14 h	can be sprinkled; do not crush or chew	yes	6+	Capsule of immediate and delayed release beads
Adderall XR	5 mg q AM-40 mg q AM	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30	8-12 h	can be sprinkled; do not crush or chew	yes	6+	Beads. Mixed salt of l- and d-amphetamine; mimics BID dosing
Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine)	30 mg q AM-70 mg q AM	20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70	8-12 hrs	Can dissolved in water	no	6-12, adults	Capsule. Lisdexamfetamine is prodrug of dextroamphetamine
Non-stimulants							
Strattera (atomoxetine)	Dosage varies. See below *	10, 18, 25, 40, 60, 80, 100	24 h	no	no	6-17: max daily dose of 70 mg; 18+: max dose of 100 mg	Capsule. Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor
Wellbutrin (bupropion)	1.4-6 mg/kg/day	75, 100	6-9 h	yes	yes	Not FDA-approved for ADHD	Tablet. Bupropion SR & XL versions exist
Provigil (modafinil)	100 mg q AM-400 mg q AM	100, 200	18-24 h	yes (200 mg tabs are scored)	no	Not FDA-approved for ADHD	Tablet. Studies have shown modafinil to be helpful for ADHD, but low incidence of serious rash
Intuniv (guanfacine extended release)	1-4 mg daily (do not increase faster than 1 mg/wk)	1, 2, 3, 4	24 hrs	no	no	6-17	Extended release tablet. α_2a agonist (orthostatic hypotension). Do not stop abruptly. Not a 1:1 conversion from IR. Do not give with high-fat meals.
Tenex (guanfacine immediate release)	1-4mg daily (do not increase faster than 1 mg/wk)	1, 2	17 hrs	can be crushed	yes	Not approved for kids or ADHD. Approved only for adults 18+ for hypertension	Tablet
Norpramin (desipramine)	Dosage varies. See below **	10, 25, 50, 75, 100, 150	8-24 hrs	can be crushed	yes	Not approved for kids or ADHD. Approved only for adults 18+ for depression	Tablet. Desipramine (TCA). Gradually titrate

*Strattera dosing: Weight < 70kg, start 0.5 mg/kg, target 1.2 mg/kg, max 1.4 mg/kg; weight >70 kg, 40-100 mg **Desipramine dosing: Adults: 75-300 mg/day; off-label: 6-12 y.o., 10-30 mg/day; 12-17 y.o., 25-150 mg/day