

# ConsumerRx™

## Informed Options for ADHD

### What are Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) medications used for?

ADHD medications are used to improve the symptoms of ADHD in children and adults such as difficulty concentrating, lack of attention span, aggression or poor school performance.

### What medications are used to treat ADHD?

You have the following choices, which vary in cost but have similar clinical benefits.

Your options include:

#### Generic Medications: ~\$27 - 44\*

**dextroamphetamine -**  
(Dexedrine®), (Dextrostat®) \$44

**dextroamphetamine sustained release -** (Dexedrine® Spansules) \$44

**methylphenidate** (Ritalin®) \$27

#### Brand Medications: ~\$95 - 128\*

Metadate® CD \$95  
Adderall® XR \$128

#### Non-Preferred Brands: ~\$52 - \$145\*

Adderall® \$145  
Concerta® \$102  
Focalin® \$52  
Metadate® ER \$63  
Ritalin® LA \$95  
Ritalin® SR \$104  
Strattera® \$130

\*Approximate cost estimates based on a 30-day supply. Actual prices may vary depending on your pharmacy and the amount or strength of medication dispensed. Brand names in ( ) are non-formulary and are listed for your reference only.

### Which ADHD medication is the most effective?

Based on scientific studies, there is no specific medication that is superior for ADHD.

### What are the side effects with ADHD medications?

There are potential side effects with all ADHD medications including increased heart rate, high blood pressure and decreased appetite.

### Which ADHD medications are the most commonly prescribed?

Medications classified as stimulants are the most commonly prescribed type of medication for ADHD. Stimulant medications are thought to encourage the brain's chemical messengers to better control attention span, impulse and excess activity.

### What is Strattera?

Strattera is a medication that was originally designed as an antidepressant medication - that is also effective in treating ADHD. Strattera is chemically similar to the antidepressant **fluoxetine**, the generic for Prozac®.

### How is Strattera different from other ADHD medications?

Strattera is not a stimulant medication and does not require a written prescription each time the medication is filled. It is one of the most expensive medications for ADHD. The significance of Strattera's non-stimulant, antidepressant design is not known at this time. Strattera is unique, but has not been proven to be more effective than other options.

**Is Strattera safer for my child?**

According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the effectiveness of Strattera beyond ten weeks has not been established. Doctors are familiar with well established ADHD medications such as **methylphenidate** (Ritalin), **Metadate CD** and Adderall XR. Both stimulant medications and Strattera have a similar potential for side effects.

**Will my child become addicted to ADHD medications? Is Strattera less addictive?**

When used as directed, none of the ADHD medications are habit forming or addictive.

**Why is Strattera non-preferred/non-formulary?**

Strattera is non-preferred because it has not demonstrated any medical advantage and it is one of the most expensive medications available today to treat ADHD. If you fill a prescription for Strattera, your out of pocket payment may be more than for other medications for ADHD depending on your benefit.

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

**Please consider methylphenidate (Ritalin) or other generic alternatives when selecting a medication for ADHD.** Strattera is a medication that provides the convenience of phone in prescriptions, however, it has not shown to be safer or more effective than other ADHD medications.

*Note: Since many medication options are available, our physicians and pharmacists developed this to provide you with information about the available alternatives, as well as potential advantages and/or lack of advantages of the various products. This medication summary was developed based upon an evaluation of information from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), scientific studies, and input from practicing doctors and specialists.*



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