

Short-Acting Stimulant Medications for Treatment of ADHD

Revised: July 1, 2026

	Methylphenidate-Based Medications	Amphetamine-Based Medications
Liquids	♦ Methylin [®] (Generic: Methylphenidate HCl oral solution)	♦ ProCentra [®] (Generic: Dextroamphetamine sulfate oral solution)
	Advantages: easy to swallow, easy to make small dose adjustments, especially when first starting treatment, different flavors Disadvantages: some children may not like the flavor	
Chewables	♦ Methylin [®] (Generic: Methylphenidate HCl chewable tablets; Brand name is no longer available)	-----
	Advantages: different flavors Disadvantages: some patients may not like the flavor	
Crushables	♦ Ritalin [®] ^{O-L} (Generic: Methylphenidate HCl oral tablet)	♦ Adderall [®] ^{O-L} (Generic: Amphetamine-Dextroamphetamine tablets, or Mixed amphetamine)
	♦ Focalin [®] ^{O-L} (Generic: Dexmethylphenidate HCl oral tablet)	♦ Zenzedi [®] ^{O-L} (Generic: Dextroamphetamine sulfate tablet at the 5, 10, 15 and 20 mg)
	♦ Methylin [®] ^{O-L} (Generic: Methylphenidate HCl chewable tablet); Brand name is no longer available	♦ Evekeo [®] ^{O-L} (Generic: Amphetamine sulfate tablets)
	Advantages: helpful for patients who cannot easily swallow pills; if the tablets are crushed, the medication may be "hidden" within food ^{O-L} Disadvantages: not flavored; possibly bitter if not "hidden" within food	

- **Abbreviations:** ER: extended release O-L: Off-label (likely safe and effective, but not FDA approved for administration in this manner) HCl: Hydrochloride MG: milligram
- **Medication Names:** Brand name formulations are shown in bold print and the common generic name for each medication follows parenthetically. If a medication is "Brand only", then there is no generic formulation available at this time. The generic names shown for "Brand only" medications are for information purposes only.
- **Medication Groupings:** Medications are grouped by means of administration option. Medications within a grouping (for example, "sprinkles") are often similar but not identical. For example, they may differ in terms of dosing strength, how quickly they work, when they wear off, and/or how well they work mid-day.
- **Generic Medications:** Although generic formulations are very similar to the corresponding brand medication, they are typically not identical. For some medications, several different manufacturers may make a generic formulation for a specific brand formulation. Just as generic formulations may differ modestly from the corresponding brand formulation, there may also be modest differences among the various generic formulations made by different manufacturers. For some individuals with ADHD, the clinical response may be better to a generic formulation than to the corresponding brand formulation, and sometimes the reverse is true.
- **Additional Information:** The most up-to-date versions of the Stimulant Medication Guide and the ADHD Medication Guide can be viewed on-line at www.ADHDMedicationGuide.com To purchase laminated copies of the latest version of the Stimulant Medication Guide, write to: ADHDMedGuide@northwell.edu. To purchase laminated copies of the latest version of the ADHD Medication Guide, go to www.ADDWarehouse.com.

Created by Dr. Andrew Adesman of Northwell Health, Inc. Questions or comments: contact ADHDMedGuide@northwell.edu. Northwell Health is not affiliated with the owner of any of the brands referenced in this Chart. This Chart should not be used as an exclusive basis for decision-making. Use of this Chart is strictly voluntary and at the user's sole risk. Copyright 2018, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 by Northwell Health, Inc, Great Neck, NY. All rights reserved. Sale of this Chart is strictly forbidden. Send inquiries to the Office of Legal Affairs, Northwell Health, Inc, 2000 Marcus Avenue, Lake Success, NY 11042.

Long-Acting Stimulant Medications for Treatment of ADHD

Revised: July 1, 2026

	Methylphenidate-Based Medications	Amphetamine-Based Medications
Liquids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Quillivant® XR (Brand only; Methylphenidate HCl ER oral suspension; banana flavor) ◆ Azstarys® (Brand only; Serdexmethylphenidate and dexamethylphenidate oral capsules) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dyanavel® XR (Brand only; Amphetamine ER oral suspension; bubblegum flavor) ◆ Vyvanse® (Generic: Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate capsules)
	<p>Advantages: easy to swallow, easy to make small dose adjustments - especially when first starting treatment, different flavors (brand versus generics) Disadvantages: some patients may not like the flavor</p>	
Chewable Tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ QuilliChew® ER (Brand only; Methylphenidate HCl ER chewable tablets; cherry flavor) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dyanavel® XR (Brand only; Amphetamine ER chewable tablets; bubblegum flavor) ◆ Vyvanse® (Generic: Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate chewable tablets; strawberry flavor)
	<p>Advantages: different flavors (brand versus generics) Disadvantages: some patients may not like the flavor</p>	
Oral Disintegrating Tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cotempla® XR--ODT (Brand only; Methylphenidate ER orally disintegrating) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adzenys® XR-ODT (Brand only; Amphetamine ER orally disintegrating tablet)
	<p>Advantages: dissolves quickly, no liquid is needed to take the tablet, does not need to be swallowed whole Disadvantages: some patients may not want to place medicine under their tongue</p>	
Sprinkles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Focalin® XR (Generic: Dexamethylphenidate HCl ER oral capsules) ◆ Metadate® CD (Generic: Methylphenidate HCl ER (CD) oral capsules) ◆ Ritalin® LA (Generic: Methylphenidate HCl ER (LA) oral capsules) ◆ Aptensio® XR (Generic: Methylphenidate HCl ER (XR) oral capsules) ◆ Jornay® PM (Brand only; Methylphenidate HCl ER oral capsules) ◆ Azstarys® (Brand only; Serdexmethylphenidate and dexamethylphenidate oral capsules) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Adderall® XR (Generic: Amphetamine-Dextroamphetamine capsules, or mixed amphetamine salts capsules) ◆ Vyvanse® (Generic: Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate capsules, or chewable tablets⁰⁻¹) ◆ Dexedrine® Spansule⁰⁻¹ (Generic: Dextroamphetamine sulfate ER oral capsules) ◆ Mydayis® (Brand only; mixed salts of a single-entity amphetamine ER capsules)
	<p>Advantages: capsules can be opened and the medication "sprinkled" on food Disadvantages: some patients may have oral texture sensitivity to the small beads (Note: Azstarys and Vyvanse capsules contain powder, not beads)</p>	
Transdermal Patches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Daytrana® (Generic: Methylphenidate transdermal system) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Xelstrym® (Brand only; Dextroamphetamine transdermal system)
	<p>Advantages: applied directly to skin, patch can be cut to optimize dose (off label); patch can be kept on beyond 9 hours (off label) Disadvantages: takes longer to start working; a mild or moderate temporary rash is not uncommon</p>	
Crushables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ QuilliChew® ER (Brand only; Methylphenidate HCl ER chewable tablets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dyanavel® XR (Brand only; Amphetamine ER chewable tablets; bubblegum flavor) ◆ Vyvanse® (Generic: Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate chewable tablets; strawberry flavor)
	<p>Advantages: helpful for patients who cannot easily swallow pills; if the tablets are crushed, the medication may be "hidden" within food; different flavors (brand versus generics) Disadvantages: some patients may not like the flavor</p>	
Non-Chewable Tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Concerta® (Generic; Methylphenidate HCl ER (OSM) tablets) 	-----
	<p>Advantages: ----- Disadvantages: must be swallowed whole</p>	