

Drug Name (include if IR, XR, ODT, LA)	Indication (include approved ages) Neurotransmitter(s) Affected Target Symptoms	Short-acting, intermediate- acting or long-acting. Duration of action, peak (if noted) <b>ADHD Table</b>	Notable side effects /Patient education
<b>Methylphenidate (D/L) (Concerta, Ritalin)</b>	<p><b>Indication (include approved ages)</b> Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children and adults (approved ages vary based on formulation) Narcolepsy (Metadate ER, Methylin ER, Ritalin, Ritalin SR)</p> <p><b>Neurotransmitter(s) Affected</b> dopamine, norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor and releaser (DN-RIRe)</p> <p><b>Target Symptoms</b> Concentration, attention span Motor hyperactivity Impulsiveness Physical and mental fatigue Daytime sleepiness Depression</p>	<p>Pharmacokinetics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Average half-life in adults is 3.5 hours (1.3–7.7 hours)</li> <li>• Average half-life in children is 2.5 hours (1.5–5 hours)</li> <li>• First-pass metabolism is not extensive with transdermal dosing, thus resulting in notably higher exposure to methylphenidate and lower exposure to metabolites as compared to oral dosing</li> <li>• Immediate-release formulations (Ritalin, Methylin, generic methylphenidate) have 2–4 hour durations of clinical action</li> <li>• Sustained-release formulations such as Methylin ER, Ritalin SR, Metadate ER, and generic methylphenidate sustained-release all have approximately 4–6 hour durations of</li> </ul>	<p><b>Notable side effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insomnia, headache, exacerbated nervousness, irritability, over-tremor, dizziness Anorexia, muscle pain, weight loss Can temporarily inhibit growth in children (controversial) Transdermal: application site reactions including contact sensitization (edema, papules, vesicles) and leukoderma</li> </ul> <p><b>Notable side effects link to neurotransmitter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increases in norepinephrine can cause autonomic side effects: tremor, tachycardia, tachycardia, hypertension, and cardiac arrhythmias</li> <li>• Increases in norepinephrine and dopamine centrally can cause effects such as insomnia, agitation, psychosis, and substance abuse</li> </ul> <p><b>Patient education instructions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use with caution in patients with history of hypertension, hyperthyroidism, or drug abuse</li> <li>• Children who are not growing and whose weight should stop treatment temporarily</li> <li>• May worsen motor and phobic symptoms</li> <li>• May worsen symptoms of tics and behavioral disturbance in ADHD patients</li> <li>• Stimulants have a high potential for abuse and must be used with caution in patients with a current or past history of substance abuse or alcoholism or in emotionally unstable patients</li> </ul>