



SIDE EFFECT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES: SELECTIVE SEROTONIN REUPTAKE INHIBITORS (SSRIs)

SERTRALINE (Zoloft), FLUOXETINE (Prozac), CITALOPRAM (Celexa), ESCITALOPRAM (Lexapro),
FLUVOXAMINE (Luvox), PAROXETINE (Paxil)

NAME of medication: _____

DOSE of medication: _____

USED for the treatment of the following conditions:

- Depression or mood disorder
- Anxiety disorder
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder
- Eating disorders
- Disruptive mood dysregulation disorder

SIDE EFFECTS of these medications include but are not limited to:

- Nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, weight gain
- Drowsiness/sedation or insomnia
- Activation (especially Prozac)
- Dizziness, tremor, headache
- Dry mouth, blurry vision (anticholinergic symptoms)
- Mood changes, anxiety
- Skin problems (rash, itching)
- Racing heart

RARE but SERIOUS side effects include but are not limited to:

- **Serotonin syndrome (fever, agitation, sweating, tremor, seizures)**
- Worsening depression, elevated mood/hypomania
- Increased risk of bruising
- **Adverse heart (cardiovascular) events — (especially Celexa)**
Please tell your provider if there is a personal or family history of heart disease, including abnormal heart rhythms (prolonged QTc syndrome), in which case screening is indicated prior to starting this medication.
- Suicidal ideation (very unlikely and studies did not report any attempts)

Administration:

- For children with autism spectrum disorder, these medications are often effective at lower doses. Therefore, the dose is started lower and then titrated upward as needed.
- These medications do not need to be taken with food. However, if there is any stomach upset, it may help to take the medication with food.
- **This medication must be taken regularly. Abrupt discontinuation may lead to withdrawal symptoms (nausea, fatigue, chills, muscle aches, agitation). Please tell your provider if you want to stop the medication and we can help to taper it down.**

Other Information:

- Generally, there is no need to pre-screen patients to start this medication unless there is a family or personal history of cardiac disease or the patient is taking other medications which may prolong the QTc interval. Please tell your provider if there is a family history of heart problems.
- While there may be some effect from the medication during the first week, it will take between 2 to 8 weeks for the medication to have its full therapeutic effect.
- Side effects will be monitored at upcoming visits. **Please contact us sooner if you have any questions or concerns about potential side effects.**



SIDE EFFECT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES: STIMULANTS

Methylphenidate derivatives and amphetamine derivatives

NAME of medication: _____

DOSE of medication: _____

USED for the treatment of the following conditions:

- ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder) or ADD

SIDE EFFECTS include but are not limited to:

- Decreased appetite with associated weight loss or failure to gain weight
- Nausea or belly pain
- Sleep disruption — difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep
- Dizziness/lightheadedness
- Rebound effect (increased hyperactivity/impulsivity when the stimulant wears off)
- New emotional and/or behavioral symptoms (anxiety, mood changes, irritability)
- Increase in blood pressure, increase in heart rate
- Tics or atypical movements (in children who are predisposed to tic disorders)

RARE but SERIOUS side effects include but are not limited to:

- **Adverse heart (cardiovascular) events.** *If there is a personal or family history of heart disease, including abnormal heart rhythms (prolonged QTc syndrome) or structural heart disease (in particular early sudden death due to cardiac/heart reasons), in which case screening is indicated prior to starting this medication.*
- Severe allergic reaction including anaphylaxis
- Angioedema (swelling of the skin usually on the face around the lips and eyes)
- Priapism (erection lasting longer than 4 hours)
- Growth delay for long-term use
- Psychotic symptoms (hallucinations, delusional thinking, or mania)
- Reynaud's phenomenon

Administration:

- To avoid trouble sleeping, the last dose should be given several hours prior to bedtime unless using delayed release form (Jornay PM).
- The immediate release preparations should be taken at least 30 minutes prior to a meal.
- **Immediate Release Tablets:** swallow whole or may be crushed and mixed in a small amount of food such as yogurt, honey, applesauce, or jam
 - includes Ritalin, Focalin, Adderall
- **Oral Solution:**
 - includes Methylin (grape flavor), Procentra (bubblegum flavor), Quillivant XR (banana flavor), Dynavel XR (bubblegum flavor)
- **Chewable Tablets:** must be chewed before swallowing
 - includes Methylin chewable, QuilliChew ER, Vyvanse
- **Orally Disintegrating Tablets (ODT):**
 - includes Adzenys XR-ODT (orange flavor), Cotempla XR-OCT

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- **Extended Release Tablets:** Must be swallowed whole. Do not crush, chew, or divide tablet as the medication will not work effectively
 - includes Concerta, Metadate ER, Jornay PM; note: Strattera, non-stimulant
- **Extended Release Capsules:** Swallow whole or open capsule and sprinkle medication on applesauce
 - includes Focalin XR, Metadate CD, Ritalin LA, Adderall XR, Aptensio XR, Vyvanse (may dissolve in water); note: Qelbree (non-stimulant)

Other Information:

- Stimulant medications are classified into two groups:
 - Methylphenidate derivatives:
 - IR (immediate release, short-acting): Ritalin, Focalin, Methylin
 - ER (extended release, intermediate acting): Metadate CD/ER, Ritalin LA/SR
 - XR (extended release, long-acting): Aptensio XR, Adhansia XR, Concerta, Cotempla XR-ODT, Daytrana patch, Focalin XR, Jornay PM, Quillichew ER, Quillivant XR
 - Amphetamine/dextroamphetamine derivatives:
 - IR: Adderall, Evekeo, Procentra, Zenzedi
 - XR: Adderall XR, Adzenys XR-ODT/ER, Dynavel XR, Mydayis, Vyvanse
- The immediate release medications start to work within 20 to 60 minutes and generally have an effect for 3 to 6 hours.
- The intermediate release medications start to work within 20 to 60 minutes and generally have an effect of 6 to 8 hours.
- The extended release medications start to work within 20 to 60 minutes and generally have an effect for 8 to 12 hours and some up to 24 hours.
- The delayed release medication (Jornay PM) starts to work in 8 to 12 hours for morning ADHD control.
- Due to the short-acting nature of these medications, they do not “build up” in the system and they are in and out of the body in 1 day. Once they are discontinued, the side effects should stop as well.
- These medications are considered first line treatment for ADHD, with or without behavioral therapy/interventions.



SIDE EFFECT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES: NEUROLEPTICS/SECOND GENERATION ANTIPSYCHOTICS

RISPERIDONE (Risperdal), ARIPIPRAZOLE (Abilify), QUETIAPINE (Seroquel), OLANZAPINE (Zyprexa), ZIPRASIDONE (Geodon), PALIPERIDONE (Invega), LURASIDONE (Latuda)

NAME of medication: _____

DOSE of medication: _____

USED for the treatment of the following conditions:

- Aggression and irritability, especially in children with autism
- Self-injurious behaviors
- Tic disorders and stereotypies
- Bipolar disorder
- Schizophrenia or psychosis

SIDE EFFECTS include but are not limited to:

- Sedation, drowsiness, confusion, memory problems
- Headache
- Dry mouth, blurry vision (anticholinergic effects)
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Increased appetite and weight gain with risk of developing “metabolic syndrome” (metabolic syndrome includes diabetes, high cholesterol, and high triglycerides)
- Anxiety or restlessness
- Dystonic reactions (involuntary muscle contractions of the head/neck/trunk/extremities/eyes)
- Orthostatic hypotension (a drop in blood pressure when standing up) with dizziness, tachycardia (fast heartbeat) or syncope (fainting)
- Absence of menses (periods) in females due to elevated prolactin
- Galactorrhea (nipple discharge) due to elevated prolactin
- Gynecomastia (increased breast tissue in males) due to elevated prolactin

RARE but SERIOUS side effects include but are not limited to:

- **Tardive dyskinesia:** involuntary and repetitive movements of the face and body which can occur after prolonged use of medication (e.g., eye blinking, lip smacking, etc.)
- **Adverse heart (cardiovascular) events:** *Please tell your provider if there is a personal or family history of heart disease, including abnormal heart rhythms (prolonged QTc syndrome), in which case screening is indicated prior to starting this medication.*
- Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS): muscle rigidity, fever, delirium, changes in heart rate
- Changes in white blood cell count
- Liver injury with abnormal liver function tests
- Seizures
- Cataracts
- Hypersensitivity reaction (severe allergic reaction)

Other Information:

- These medications tend to work quickly with positive effect being seen within 1 to 2 weeks.
- It is important to take the medication daily to achieve desired effect.
- **Do not discontinue the medication without speaking to your medical provider due to the risk of withdrawal symptoms.**

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- Prior to starting the medication, the following lab work may be obtained
 - Fasting Lipid Panel and glucose
 - Hemoglobin A1c, if glucose level is high
 - Complete Metabolic Panel (CMP)
 - Complete Blood Count with Differential (CBC with Diff)
- A Lipid Panel and glucose may be obtained every 6 months thereafter
- CMP and CBC with Diff may be obtained every 1 year thereafter
- Prolactin may be elevated in asymptomatic patients, and prolactin level measurement is reserved if symptoms are present.

Side effects will be monitored at upcoming visits. Please contact us sooner if you have any questions or concerns about potential side effects.



SIDE EFFECT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES: ALPHA-2 AGONISTS

CLONIDINE (Catapres), EXTENDED RELEASE CLONIDINE (Kapvay), GUANFACINE (Tenex),
EXTENDED RELEASE GUANFACINE (Intuniv)

NAME of medication: _____

DOSE of medication: _____

USED for the treatment of the following conditions:

- ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder) or ADD
- Hyperactive/impulsive behaviors
- Outbursts and temper tantrums
- Tic disorders (decrease in motor tics)
- Sleep problems
- High blood pressure

SIDE EFFECTS include but are not limited to:

- Sedation
- Decreased heart rate and/or blood pressure
- Headache
- Dry mouth
- Dizziness
- Constipation
- Rebound hypertension upon abrupt discontinuation of the medication (**do not stop abruptly**)

RARE but SERIOUS side effects include but are not limited to:

- Extreme decrease in heart rate or blood pressure, particularly of concern in an overdose situation (**please keep out of reach of children**)

Administration:

- If unable to swallow, the immediate release preparations (Catapres, Tenex) can be crushed and mixed with a small amount of soft food like yogurt, honey, applesauce, or jam that needs to be eaten right away.
- The long-acting forms of these medications (Kapvay, Intuniv) last for 10 to 12 hours. The extended release preparations must be swallowed whole.

Other Information:

- It may take 1 to 2 weeks or longer to achieve desired effects, and the dosage of medication may need to be titrated upward weekly until desired effect is achieved.
- **These medications must be tapered when discontinuing to avoid rebound hypertension (high blood pressure).**

Side effects will be monitored at upcoming visits. Please contact us sooner if you have any questions or concerns.



SIDE EFFECT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES: ATOMOXETINE (STRATTERA)

DOSE of medication: _____

USED for the treatment of the following conditions:

- ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder) or ADD
- Often used when there are significant side effects to stimulants or if there is co-existing anxiety

TYPE of medication: Selective Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor (SNRI)

SIDE EFFECTS include but are not limited to:

- Weight loss, decreased appetite
- Nausea, vomiting, belly pain
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Irritability
- Sedation, fatigue
- Increased blood pressure, increased heart rate
- Tics or atypical movements

RARE but SERIOUS side effects include but are not limited to:

- **Adverse heart (cardiovascular) events including sudden death.** *Please tell your provider if there is a personal or family history of heart disease, including abnormal heart rhythms (prolonged QTc syndrome) or structural heart disease (in particular early sudden death due to cardiac/heart reasons), in which case screening is indicated prior to starting this medication.*
- Liver injury (indications would be itchy skin, yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, dark urine, right upper abdominal pain/tenderness, unexplained “flu-like” symptoms)
- Priapism (erection lasting longer than 4 hours)
- Change in mood or irritability
- **Change in thought patterns with increased risk of suicidal thinking**

Administration:

- This medication comes in a capsule form and should be swallowed whole. It is effective if taken in the morning or the evening but is generally more effective if taken in the morning. Strattera works for at least 10 to 12 hours.
- It takes time to build up to an effective dose and, while some effect may be seen in 1 to 4 weeks, it may take between 6 to 12 weeks to achieve desired effect. **Therefore, it is important to take every day.**
- Please tell your provider if you wish to discontinue the medication. It is best to wean off to avoid withdrawal symptoms.

Side effects will be monitored at upcoming visits. Please contact us sooner if you have any questions or concerns about potential side effects.