

Treatment of ADHD

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- Depends on**
- Type of dysfunction
 - Severity of dysfunction
 - Amount of secondary symptoms present
 - Ability of child
 - Cooperation of parents
 - Cooperation of school
 - Response to medication

- Diet**
- Exclude colourings
 - Exclude artificial flavourings
 - Older children don't respond as well as younger children to diet

Lots of herbal remedies available

- Information**
- Insight
 - Understanding
 - For parents
 - For child
 - For school

Counselling

- Ongoing parent counselling vital
- Student needs to learn new behaviours

Medication

- Does not cure
- Allows child to function closer to expected age norm until he matures
- Dose tailored to individual
- Ritalin, Equasym, Concerta (Methylphenidate)
 - Reduces hyperactivity and impulsiveness
 - Increases the attention span
 - Derivative of amphetamine
 - Side effects can include headaches, insomnia & loss of appetite, and many other less common ones
 - Releases dopamine
 - No need for breaks or to only take during school time
 - Slow release versions (Ritalin SR, Concerta)
 - Don't need midday dose at school
- Dexedrine (Dextroamphetamine Sulfate)
 - Affects norepinephrine and also dopamine
 - Similar side-effects to Ritalin
 - Works differently and so can have different effects on individuals
 - Need fewer doses
- Adderall
 - Mixed salts of a single entity amphetamine product
 - Supposed to last longer than Ritalin
 - Supposed to be more effective than Ritalin
 - Lots of possible side-effects, as with Ritalin
- Imipramine, Tofranil
 - Tricyclic antidepressant
 - Helps with anxiety and depression
 - Used when stimulant medication doesn't work or isn't appropriate
 - Not as effective with at treating main ADHD symptoms
 - Side effects include dry mouth & constipation
 - Inhibits re-uptake of norepinephrine
- Clonidine, Catapres, Dixirit
 - An antihypertensive medication
 - Used to treat the insomnia that can be caused by the stimulant medication
 - Can also decrease aggression and hyperactivity
 - Side effects include sleepiness, dry mouth, nausea, dizziness, rash
 - Must be withdrawn gradually as danger of heart-attack
 - Overdose very dangerous
 - Blocks norepinephrine auto-receptors