

ADHD Medication Conversion Guidelines and Comparisons*

General Conversion Guidelines

Drug	Switching Approach
Methylphenidate/ dextroamphetamine/ mixed amphetamine salts conversion	No specific guidance in literature. Amphetamines are dosed at about half the methylphenidate dose. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider switching from amphetamines to methylphenidate at same dose and titrate up. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Or, start with recommended initial dose and titrate up. • Consider switching methylphenidate to amphetamines at <u>half the dose</u>
<i>Ritalin LA</i>	Dosage conversion from methylphenidate IR (BID dosing) to <i>Ritalin LA</i> : use same total daily dose. Give once daily.
<i>Concerta</i>	Previous methylphenidate daily dose: Recommended Concerta starting dose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 mg BID or TID (IR): 18 mg <i>Concerta</i> every morning • 10 mg BID or TID (IR): 36 mg <i>Concerta</i> every morning • 15 mg BID or TID (IR): 54 mg <i>Concerta</i> every morning • 20 mg BID or TID: 72 mg <i>Concerta</i> every morning

ADHD Medication Comparisons

NOTE: Age ranges for dosing as follows: children (6 yrs and older; unless otherwise specified), Adolescents (13 to 17 yrs of age), and Adults (≥18 yrs of age)

Product - amphetamines	Dosage Forms/ Cost	Dosing / Frequency	Duration of Action (approx.)	Initial and Titration Dose (every 7 days, unless otherwise noted)	MAX Daily Dose
Adderall (Teva-mixed amphetamine salts)	5, 7.5, 10, 12.5, 15, 20, 30 mg tabs ~\$15 (20mg daily)	1 – 3 times daily (usually once or twice) at 4 – 6 hour intervals	6 hr (dose- dependent)	Initial: 2.5 mg once daily (3-5 yrs of age) -5 mg once or twice daily (≥ 6 yrs) -10 mg BID (adults) Titration: 2.5 mg once daily (3-5 yrs of age) -5 mg once or twice daily (≥ 6 yrs) -10 mg BID (adults)	FDA: 40mg Off-label: 60mg if >50kg
Adderall XR (Takeda- mixed amphetamine salts)	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 mg ER caps ~\$50 (any strength daily)	Once daily in the morning w/o regard to meals. <i>May be taken whole or sprinkled on applesauce.</i>	10 – 12 hr	Initial: 5-10 mg (6-12 yrs old) -10 mg (adolescents) -20 mg (adults) Titration: 5-10 mg	FDA: 30mg (children) -20mg (adolescents & adults) Off-label: 30mg, 60mg if >50 kg
Vyvanse (Takeda – lisdexamfetamine) <i>Converted to active dextroamphetamine in the bloodstream.</i> <i>*70 mg only avail as caps</i>	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70* mg chewable tabs and caps ~\$355 (any strength daily)	Once daily in the morning w/o regard to meals. <i>Capsule may be taken whole or contents dissolved in water, yogurt, or OJ and taken immediately.</i>	10 – 12 hr (up to 14 hr, adults)	Initial: 30 mg (children and adults) Titration: 10 to 20 mg	FDA: 70 mg

*Limited list of ADHD stimulant medications; Adapted from Clinical Resource, Comparison of ADHD medications (U.S.) Pharmacist's Letter / Prescriber's Letter Updated Dec '22

ADHD Medication Comparisons (continued)

Product - methylphenidate	Dosage Forms/ Cost	Dosing / Frequency	Duration of Action (approx.)	Initial and Titration Dose (every 7 days, unless otherwise noted)	MAX Daily Dose
Ritalin (Novartis) (methylphenidate immediate-release) (IR)	5, 10, 20 mg tab ~\$23 (10mg BID)	BID – TID (AM, noon, 4pm if needed), preferably 30 – 45 minutes before meals.	3-5 hr	Initial: 5 mg BID – TID (children) -5 mg BID – TID (consider QID) or 10 mg q AM and q noon (adults) Titration: 5 – 10 mg	FDA: 60 mg Off-label: 100 mg if > 50kg
Ritalin LA (Novartis – methylphenidate extended-release) (ER) Bead-filled capsule (50% IR and 50% enteric coated, delayed release)	10, 20, 30, 40, 60 mg** **60 mg caps only available from Mayne Pharma ~\$80 (20 mg daily)	Once daily in the morning. May be taken whole or sprinkled on applesauce.	6- 9 hr	Initial: 10 – 20 mg (children and adults) Titration: 10 mg	FDA: 60 mg Off-label: 100 mg if > 50kg
Concerta (Janssen-methylphenidate ER) OROS (osmotic system has hole for drug release) with IR overcoat	18, 27, 36, 54 mg ER tabs ~\$70 (36 mg daily)	Once daily in the morning without regard to meals. Must be swallowed whole.	12 hr	Initial: 18 mg (children or adolescents) -18 – 36 mg (adults) Titration: 18 mg (27 mg tablet is available for titration between 18 mg and 36 mg)	FDA: 54 mg (children) -72 mg (adolescents and adults) Off-label: 72 mg (children ≤40 kg) -90 mg (adolescents ≥ 40 kg) 108 mg (adults)
Metadate CD (UCB-methylphenidate (ER) Bead-filled capsule (30% IR and 70% ER)	10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 mg ER caps ~\$75 (20 mg daily)	Once daily in the morning. May be taken whole or sprinkled on applesauce. Avoid alcohol; may cause more rapid release.	6-9 hr	Initial: 20 mg (children and adults) Titration: 10 – 20 mg	FDA: 60 mg Off-label: 100 mg if > 50kg

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Dosing guidelines when switching from one stimulant to another in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children and adolescents*

* Ultimate dose must be individualized based upon patient needs and response as children may respond differently to new medication.

Switching from one form of XR dextroamphetamine-amphetamine to another[§]

§ Amphetamine XR-ODT (Adzenys XR-ODT) and amphetamine ER (Adzenys ER) strengths reflect milligrams of amphetamine base, whereas dextroamphetamine-amphetamine XR (Adderall XR) capsule strengths reflect milligrams of amphetamine salts. These cannot be substituted on a milligram-per-milligram basis. If switching from any other amphetamine product, discontinue the treatment and retitrate the new product from the appropriate initial starting dose.

Current medication and dose	New medication	Recommended starting dose	Comments	
Dextroamphetamine-amphetamine XR (Adderall XR) capsule	Amphetamine XR orally disintegrating tablet (Adzenys XR-ODT) Amphetamine ER oral suspension (1.25 mg amphetamine base per mL, Adzenys ER)	Each 5 mg of dextroamphetamine-amphetamine salts (Adderall XR) is equivalent to approximately 3.1 mg of amphetamine XR-ODT (Adzenys XR-ODT) or amphetamine ER oral suspension (Adzenys ER)	XR capsule (Adderall XR)	Dose expressed as base: ODT-XR tablet and ER oral suspension (Adzenys XR-ODT, Adzenys ER)
			Approximate equivalence (taken once daily in the morning):	
			5 mg	3.1 mg
			10 mg	6.3 mg
			15 mg	9.4 mg
			20 mg	12.5 mg
			25 mg	15.7 mg
			30 mg	18.8 mg

