



UTAH SOCIETY OF
HEALTH-SYSTEM PHARMACISTS

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Adult ADHD and Stimulant Use: the Emerging, Overshadowed Epidemic

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Disclosure

Relevant Financial Conflicts of Interest

- Keaton Crockett: No conflicts of interest
- Alisyn May: No conflicts of interest

Off-Label Uses of Medications

- Bupropion
- Clonidine
- Guanfacine



Technician Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to successfully:

- Identify common stimulants used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- Discuss appropriate stimulant use in adults diagnosed with ADHD
- Differentiate elements of legitimate vs. illegitimate stimulant prescriptions



Pharmacist Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to successfully:

- Discuss appropriate stimulant use in adults diagnosed with ADHD
- Examine diagnostic criteria for adult ADHD
- Identify stimulant adverse effects and the impact of stimulant use on comorbid conditions
- Investigate elements of appropriate stimulant prescribing and use



Prevalence

ADHD at Sugarhouse Clinic

- 550 patients seen in a 1 week period
- 42 patients with current stimulant Rx
 - 13 visits for stimulant refills
- 10 visits were new patients requesting ADHD medications or existing patients requesting new ADHD medication/diagnosis



ADHD Epidemiology Children¹

- 6.1 million U.S. children (9.4%) diagnosed with ADHD
- 62% were taking medication
- 64% diagnosed with another behavioral, emotional, or mental health disorder



<https://pixabay.com/en/children-win-success-video-game-593113/>

ADHD Epidemiology Adults^{2,3}

- Over 60% of children with ADHD continue to have symptoms into adulthood
- 4.4% to 5.2% of adults in the U.S. have ADHD



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Diagnosis

ADHD⁴

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) core patterns/symptoms:

- Inattention – “wanders off task”
- Hyperactivity – “moving constantly”
- Impulsivity – “hasty actions or socially intrusive”



https://www.verywellmind.com/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adhd-2793822

ADHD History^{5,6}


- DSM II (1968) “Hyperkinetic Reaction of Childhood”
- DSM III (1980) “Attention Deficit Disorder with and without Hyperactivity”
- DSM III-R “Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder” (eliminated ADD without hyperactivity)
- DSM IV (1994) retained ADHD and introduced three subtypes
 - Predominantly Inattentive
 - Predominantly Hyperactive-Impulsive
 - Combined



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DSM V Criteria

- **A** – Persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity that interferes with functioning or development
 - Gives examples how symptoms may manifest in adolescents and adults
 - Reduced required number of symptoms from 6 to 5 for “older” adolescents and adults (**17 years and older**)
- **B** – Several symptoms present prior to age 12
 - Changed age of symptom onset from before age 7 to before age 12



DSM V Criteria⁷

- **C** – Several symptoms present in 2 or more settings (home, school, work, social, other)
- **D** – Clear evidence that symptoms interfere with social, academic, or occupational functioning
- **E** – Symptoms are not better explained by another mental disorder



DSM V Criteria⁷ Inattention – 5 or more required:


- Overlooks or misses details; work is inaccurate
- Difficulty remaining focused (during lectures, conversations, lengthy reading)
- Often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly (mind seems elsewhere)
- Does not follow through (starts tasks but quickly loses focus)
- Difficulty organizing tasks (messy, poor time management, misses deadlines)
- Avoid tasks requiring sustained mental effort (preparing reports, completing forms)
- Often loses things (books, tools, wallets, keys, paperwork, eyeglasses, mobile telephones)
- Easily distracted (has unrelated thoughts)
- Often forgetful (returning calls, paying bills, keeping appointments)

DSM V Criteria⁷ Hyperactivity/Impulsivity – 5 or more required:

- Often fidgets with or taps hands/feet or squirms in seat
- Often leaves seat in situations when remaining seated is expected (classroom, office)
- Often runs about or climbs in situations where it is inappropriate (feeling restless)
- Often unable to play or engage in leisure activities quietly
- Acts as if “driven by a motor” (hard time being still for a long periods – restaurants, meetings)
- Often talks excessively
- Often blurts out answers before questions are completed (can’t wait for turn in conversations)
- Often has difficulty waiting his or her turn (while waiting in line)
- Often interrupts or intrudes others (butts into conversations, take over what others are doing)

Diagnosis and Treatment Gaps⁸

- Often goes undiagnosed or untreated
- Affects several aspects of daily life:
 - Set priorities
 - Relationships
 - Productivity at work
 - Manage home finances
 - Help children with homework
 - Criminal activity
 - Increase in traffic accidents
 - Self-esteem
 - Sleep



Question (Pharmacists)

Examine whether the following patient’s symptoms meet the required number of symptoms according to Criterion A in DSM V

- Worries excessively about personal health
- Has started several projects at work that he has started, but been unable to finish
- Spends too much time playing Fortnite
- Wife complains that he doesn’t seem to listen to her when they are having a conversation
- Frequently loses his keys or wallet
- Coworkers have complained that he is frequently tapping or fidgeting with his pen
- Has difficulty waking up in the morning
- Has forgot about and missed two recent PCP appointments and dental appointment
- Has a hard time remaining focused during weekly work meetings
- Has difficulty being patient with his 3-year-old daughter

A – meets required number of symptoms
B – does not meet required number of symptoms

Comorbidities

Comorbidities: WHO estimates 2017⁹


Prevalence of comorbidities in patients with ADHD	Prevalence of ADHD in patients with other conditions
■ Bipolar: 9%	■ Bipolar: 15%
■ MDD: 15%	■ MDD: 8%
■ Anxiety: 34%	■ Anxiety: 9%
■ SUD: 11%	■ SUD: 11%

MDD: Major Depressive Disorder
SUD: Substance Use Disorder

Comorbidities – Overlapping Symptoms^{10,11}

Bipolar Disorder (manic phase)

- Restlessness
- Impulsivity
- Talkativeness
- Distractibility
- Fidgeting



Depression

- Anhedonia
- Sleep issues
- Irritability
- Appetite changes
- Forgetfulness
- Inability to focus


<https://pixabay.com/en/sad-man-depressed-sadness-2635043/>

USHP

Comorbidities – Overlapping Symptoms^{10,11}

Anxiety

- Fidgeting
- Poor concentration
- Sleep issues
- Restlessness
- Impulsivity



Substance Use Disorder

- Inattention
- Mood swings
- Poor concentration
- Poor memory

<https://pixabay.com/en/sad-man-depressed-sadness-2635043/>

USHP

Comorbidities: Management - CADDRA Guidelines¹¹

Bipolar: Treat and stabilize bipolar symptoms first

MDD: Treat the most impairing condition first

Anxiety: Treat the most impairing condition first


SUD: Treat concurrently and independently

CADDRA: Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance
MDD: Major Depressive Disorder
SUD: Substance Use Disorder

USHP

Side Effects of Stimulants¹²

- Headache (up to 28% of patients)
- Insomnia (up to 31%)
- Irritability (up to 11%)
- Decreased appetite / weight loss (up to 36%)
- Xerostomia (up to 35%)
- Tachycardia / palpitations (↑ 7 BPM)
- Hypertension (↑ 5 mmHg systolic)
- Tics (7%)



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Boxed Warnings¹²

- Abuse and Dependence:**
 - "CNS stimulants, including methylphenidate-containing products and amphetamines, have a high potential for abuse and dependence..."
 - "Long-term abusive use can lead to marked tolerance and psychological dependence with varying degrees of abnormal behavior..."
- Cardiovascular events:**
 - "Use has been associated with serious cardiovascular events including sudden death in patients with preexisting structural cardiac abnormalities or other serious heart problems... patients should be carefully evaluated for cardiac diseases prior to initiation of therapy... Use with caution in patients with cardiovascular conditions that may be exacerbated by increases in blood pressure or heart rate (eg, hypertension, heart failure, recent MI, ventricular arrhythmia)."

Question (Pharmacists)

A 46 year old female has recently been diagnosed with ADHD and is starting dextroamphetamine/amphetamine. Based on her medication profile, what comorbid conditions could be adversely affected with the initiation of dextroamphetamine/amphetamine?


- Metformin 500 mg twice daily [Diabetes]
- Losartan 100 mg daily [Hypertension]
- Simvastatin 20 mg daily [Hyperlipidemia]
- Sumatriptan 50 mg PRN [Migraines/Headache]
- Zolpidem 5 mg at night PRN [Insomnia]
- Bupirone 10 mg twice daily [Anxiety]

A – Yes
B – No

Stimulant Use in ADHD


Products¹²

- Stimulants**
 - Methylphenidate (Ritalin®)
 - Amphetamine salts (Adderall®)
- Non-stimulants**
 - Atomoxetine (Strattera®) FDA approved
 - Clonidine (extended release) FDA approved in children only
 - Guanfacine (Intuniv®) FDA approved in children only
 - Bupropion Not FDA approved




Stimulant Products¹²

- Methylphenidate**
 - Ritalin®
 - Ritalin LA®
 - Ritalin SR®
 - Aptensio XR®
 - Concerta®
 - Cotempla XR-ODT®
 - Daytrana®
 - Metadate CD®
 - Metadate ER®
 - Methylin®
 - Quillichew ER®
 - Quilivant XR®
 - Relexxii®
 - Jornay PM®



- Dexamethylphenidate**
 - Focalin®
 - Focalin XR®
- Dextroamphetamine/amphetamine**
 - Adderall®
 - Adderall XR®
 - Mydayis®
- Lisdexamfetamine**
 - Vyvanse®
- Amphetamine**
 - Adzenys® ER, XR ODT
 - Dyanavel XR®
 - Evekeo®



Question (Technician)

Identify the following as either a stimulant for ADHD, non-stimulant for ADHD, or other:

- Guanfacine
- Vyvanse®
- Fluoxetine
- Atomoxetine
- Metadate®
- Amitriptyline

A – Stimulant for ADHD
B – Non-stimulant for ADHD
C – Other

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Increase in Use Among Women¹³

Prescription claims among privately insured women aged 15-44 years, United States 2003-2015

- 344% increase overall
- 450% increase in women age 20-24
- 700% increase in women age 25-29
- 560% increase in women age 30-34



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Increase in Use Among Women¹³

Prescription claims among privately insured women aged 15-44 years, United States 2003-2015

- Most commonly dispensed products

▪ Mixed amphetamine salts:	60.8%
▪ Lisdexamfetamine:	26.7%
▪ Methylphenidate:	18.1%
▪ Dexmethylphenidate:	3.1%



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Prevalence of Prescription Stimulants¹⁴

2015-2016 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health

- Adult prescription stimulants have surpassed youth prescriptions
- Adults >18 years from 2015-2016
- Approximately 16 million adults (6.6%) used prescription stimulants
 - 11 million reported use without misuse
 - 5 million reported misuse at least once – **31.2% of stimulant users**
 - 0.4 million had prescription stimulant use disorders



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Prevalence of Prescription Stimulants¹⁴

2015-2016 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health

- Definition of Misuse – in any way that a doctor did not direct you to use them, including:
 - 1 – Use without a prescription of your own
 - 2 – Greater amounts, more often or longer that you were told to take them
 - 3 – Use in any other way a doctor did not direct you to use them



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Prevalence of Prescription Stimulants¹⁴

2015-2016 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health

- Main motivations for misuse
 - Help be alert of concentrate (56.34%)
 - Help Study (21.88%)
 - Get high or experiment (15.53%)
 - Lose weight (4.07%)
 - Other (2.17%)



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Prevalence of Prescription Stimulants¹⁴

2015-2016 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health

- Source of misused prescription stimulants
 - Free from friend or relative (56.87%)
 - Bought or stole from friend or relative (21.77%)
 - One or more physicians (11.09%)
 - Drug dealer or stranger (4.33%)
 - Other (5.94%)



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Use Among College Students¹⁵

	Drug Use by Age 24 (%)	First Use in College (%)
Marijuana	65.8	37.2
Prescription Stimulants	34.1	25.7
Prescription Analgesics	27.2	19.9
Hallucinogens	19.4	13.5
Cocaine	15.9	14.1
Tranquilizers	15.5	13.3
Ecstasy	11.4	10.7
Inhalants	9.6	6.5
Methamphetamines	2.8	1.4
Heroin	1.2	0.5



Use Among College Students¹⁶

Do college students improve grades by using prescription stimulants nonmedically?

NPS Use	%	Change in GPA
Abstainers (did not engage in NPS)	68.8	
Initiators (NPS year 3, not year 2)	8.7	
Desisters (NPS year 2, not year 3)	5.8	
Persisters (NPS in both years)	16.7	

NPS – nonmedical use of prescription stimulants

Use Among College Students¹⁶

Do college students improve grades by using prescription stimulants nonmedically?

NPS Use	%	Change in GPA
Abstainers (did not engage in NPS)	68.8	↑ 0.053
Initiators (NPS year 3, not year 2)	8.7	↓ 0.025 (not significant)
Desisters (NPS year 2, not year 3)	5.8	↑ 0.016 (not significant)
Persisters (NPS in both years)	16.7	↓ 0.025 (not significant)

NPS – nonmedical use of prescription stimulants

Stimulant Overdose¹⁷

US poison centers reported 17,000 human exposures to ADHD medications in 2010 (20% in adults)

- Primary: neurologic and cardiovascular effects
 - Mydriasis
 - Tremor
 - Agitation
 - Hyperreflexia
 - Combative behavior
 - Confusion
 - hallucinations
 - Delirium
 - Anxiety
 - Paranoia
 - Tachycardia
 - Hypertension
 - Dysrhythmias

Legal Elements

Dispensing Requirements¹⁸

- Required Information for Schedule II Medications:
 - Date of issue
 - Patient's name and address
 - Practitioner's name, address, and DEA registration number
 - Drug name
 - Drug strength
 - Dosage form
 - Quantity prescribed
 - Directions for use
 - Signature of prescriber

Dispensing Requirements^{19,20}

- May not exceed one-month's supply
- Must be dispensed within 30 days of issue or dispensing date
- Refills are not allowed
- Up to three prescriptions for the same CII may be issued at the same time
- Facsimile prescriptions require that the hard copy be presented at time of dispensing (exceptions for LTCFs and hospice)
- CII prescriptions "may be partially dispensed if the pharmacist is unable to supply the full quantity" – the remaining must be dispensed within 72 hours, or a new prescription is required
- Must be issued for legitimate medical purpose – some occasions may require ICD-10 codes

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Question (Technician)

Differentiate the legitimate and illegitimate elements of this prescription

General Health Center	
Name: <u>Adly Scatter</u>	DOB: <u>7/12/1982</u>
Patient Address: _____	
Date: <u>10/04/2018</u>	
Rx:	
Focalin XR 20 mg tablet #60 take 1 tablet by mouth once daily	
Refills: <u>2</u>	
Prescriber: <u>Dr. Focus</u> DEA: <u>B5751385</u>	

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Opioid legislation that could potentially translate to stimulants^{21,22}

- HB127 – Prescribers shall check the controlled substance database when prescribing a CII or CIII opioid to a patient for the first time [Effective date 5/8/18]
- HB399 – Pharmacists shall apply warning labels to opiates and display pamphlets created by the Department of Health [Effective date 5/8/18]

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Reporting^{23,24}

- Controlled Substance Database
 - All pharmacies required to submit on a daily basis (real-time or batch)
- Theft or Loss
 - DEA form 106
 - For "theft of significant loss of any controlled substance"
 - Must be done within one business day of discovery
 - Encouraged to submit online
- Falsified Prescriptions
 - Notify prescriber
 - Notify law enforcement



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Question (Pharmacist)

A new patient presents to your pharmacy for a prescription of Adderall XR 20 mg which was e-prescribed from Dr. Energizer. You run a DOPL report and find that 7 days ago the patient filled Concerta 27 mg at a different pharmacy, prescribed by Dr. Suspicion. Discuss with your neighbor how you would further investigate or handle the scenario.

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Transitions of Care Pearls

- Do inpatients need to be continued on prescription stimulants? – Not typically
- Withdrawal is unlikely in patients taking prescribed therapeutic doses
- How soon are stimulants effective after resuming therapy? – "Immediately" (20-180 minutes)¹²



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Question (Pharmacist and Technician)

Discuss in groups of 2 or 3 ways you have seen in your practice the appropriate use or misuse of stimulants in adults diagnosed with ADHD

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Conclusions

- Historically a disease of children, ADHD increasingly being diagnosed and treated in adults
- Diagnostic criteria in DSM-V are recognizing adult ADHD
- Comorbid conditions make ADHD hard to diagnose and manage
- Stimulants are the mainstay of ADHD treatment
- Pharmacists and technicians play a vital role in the appropriate use and dispensing of Schedule II stimulant medications for ADHD

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Final Thoughts and Questions



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