



# ADHD STIMULANTS AND THE DEVELOPING BRAIN

USE AS PRESCRIBED

PROPER USE IS KEY. TALK TO A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL.

Stimulant medications for ADHD work by changing the level of certain chemicals in the brain. When taking these medications, it is important to follow the directions of a medical professional to get the best results with the least risk of addiction or other negative side effects.

## WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS IF USED PROPERLY?

**Personality:** A child's personality should not change

**Behavior:** Reduction in hyperactivity and impulsivity

**Prefrontal cortex:** Improved ability to focus and learn

**Executive dysfunction:** Better management of thoughts, emotions, and actions

## ADDICTION

Teens can get addicted more easily than adults and some teens with ADHD can be more prone to drug abuse. However, if someone takes ADHD medication at the right level, research suggests that they are not addictive. If they are misused, such as taking more than prescribed, they can become addictive.





**80% HAVE  
FEWER  
SYMPTOMS  
AFTER  
FINDING  
THE  
CORRECT  
DOSAGE**

## **POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

- Decreased appetite/weight loss
- Difficulty sleeping
- Anxiety or depression
- Repetitive movements or tics
- Minor growth delay
- Increased heart rate

## **PROPER USE**

Stimulants are the most common type of prescription medication that healthcare providers use to treat ADHD. They can be a powerful tool to help a young person improve their performance in school and reduce the negative consequences of behavioral issues. Like any other tool, the key is to use them properly. In addition to using them as directed, it is important to notify your medical professional of any negative effects so adjustments can be made.

**WELL-KNOWN ADHD  
STIMULANTS INCLUDE  
ADDERALL® AND RITALIN®.**