

What is ADHD?

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a common disorder that affects millions of children and often persists into adulthood.



What are symptoms associated with ADHD?

- *Inattention (unable to concentrate on schoolwork)
- *Impulsivity (difficulty awaiting turn)
- *Hyperactivity (has trouble sitting quietly; fidgety)

How is ADHD diagnosed?

- *Medical exam
- *Interviews
- *Rating scales
- *Screening Questionnaire about health, medical problems, symptoms, and issues at school or home

ADHD: Putting the Pieces Together



References:

Videbeck, S. L. (2014). *Psychiatric-mental health nursing*. (6th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

Medications for ADHD

CNS stimulants:

Cause the release of neurotransmitters (norepinephrine, dopamine, and serotonin) and blocks their reuptake, thus enhancing the inhibitory centers of the brain

*Methylphenidate (Ritalin)

*Amphetamine (Adderall)

* Pemoline (Cylert)

Common side effects

Loss of appetite

Weight loss

Sleep disturbances

Restlessness

Resources

CHADD: National Resource for ADHD @ <http://www.chadd.org/>



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Establish a daily routine @ school/home

Take medications as directed and don't skip doses or stop taking abruptly

Take last dose of stimulants by early afternoon

Avoid sharing medications with others

Monitor eating habits

Patient teaching