

Understand the effects of medication

The use of medication for ADHD can be a sensitive issue.

Understand possible side effects so you know when to alert parents.

Medication may at times need to be reviewed.

Medication can:

- decrease impulsivity, task jumping, and aggressiveness
- increase compliance
- improve handwriting and fine motor skills, social relationships, and short-term memory.

Medication won't:

- increase intelligence
- improve reading unless attention is the major issue
- change a child's personality
- cause drug dependency.

Side effects:

- loss of appetite/mild weight loss
- insomnia
- tearfulness, being withdrawn or clingy (these could be signs that medication needs adjusting)
- rebound behaviour – discuss with professionals.

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