

# ADHD Part II: Managing Comorbidities



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# Financial Disclosure

- I have no relationships to disclose



# Off-Label Use of Medications

- This talk discusses the off-label use of medications
- Each off-label medication is clearly labeled in talk
- Clinical guidelines generally followed
  - Deviations from guidelines clearly discussed
- Discussion of off-label medications should not be construed as encouraging the use of these medications for other than FDA-indicated uses



# Caveats

- Information and slides carefully reviewed prior to presentation
- Information presented here should not be assumed to be error-free
- Please consult standard references for full details regarding medications, doses, contraindications, etc.



# Overview

- ADHD

- ADHD

- With disruptive sx
- With anxiety
- With depression
- With bipolar d/o
- With substance abuse
- With learning disabilities
- With tics

- Conclusion

# ADHD





# ADHD: Symptoms

- Inattentive sx
- Hyperactive sx
- Impulsive sx



# ADHD: Inattentive Sx\*

- Poor attention/makes careless mistakes
- Can't focus on tasks
- Doesn't seem to listen when spoken to
- Trouble following directions
- Poor organization/task completion
- Avoids tasks requiring mental effort
- Losing things necessary for tasks
- Easily distracted
- Often forgetful

\*Modified from DSM-IV-TR criteria which should be consulted for full details.





# ADHD: Hyperactive/Impulsive

## Sx\*

- Fidgets/squirms
- Gets up from seat when being seated expected
- Excessive running/climbing (or subjective restlessness)
- Difficulty with quiet tasks
- Often “on the go”
- Talks excessively
- Blurting out inappropriate things, answers before question is finished
- Difficulty waiting turn
- Interrupts/intrudes on others

\*Modified from DSM-IV-TR criteria which should be consulted for full details.

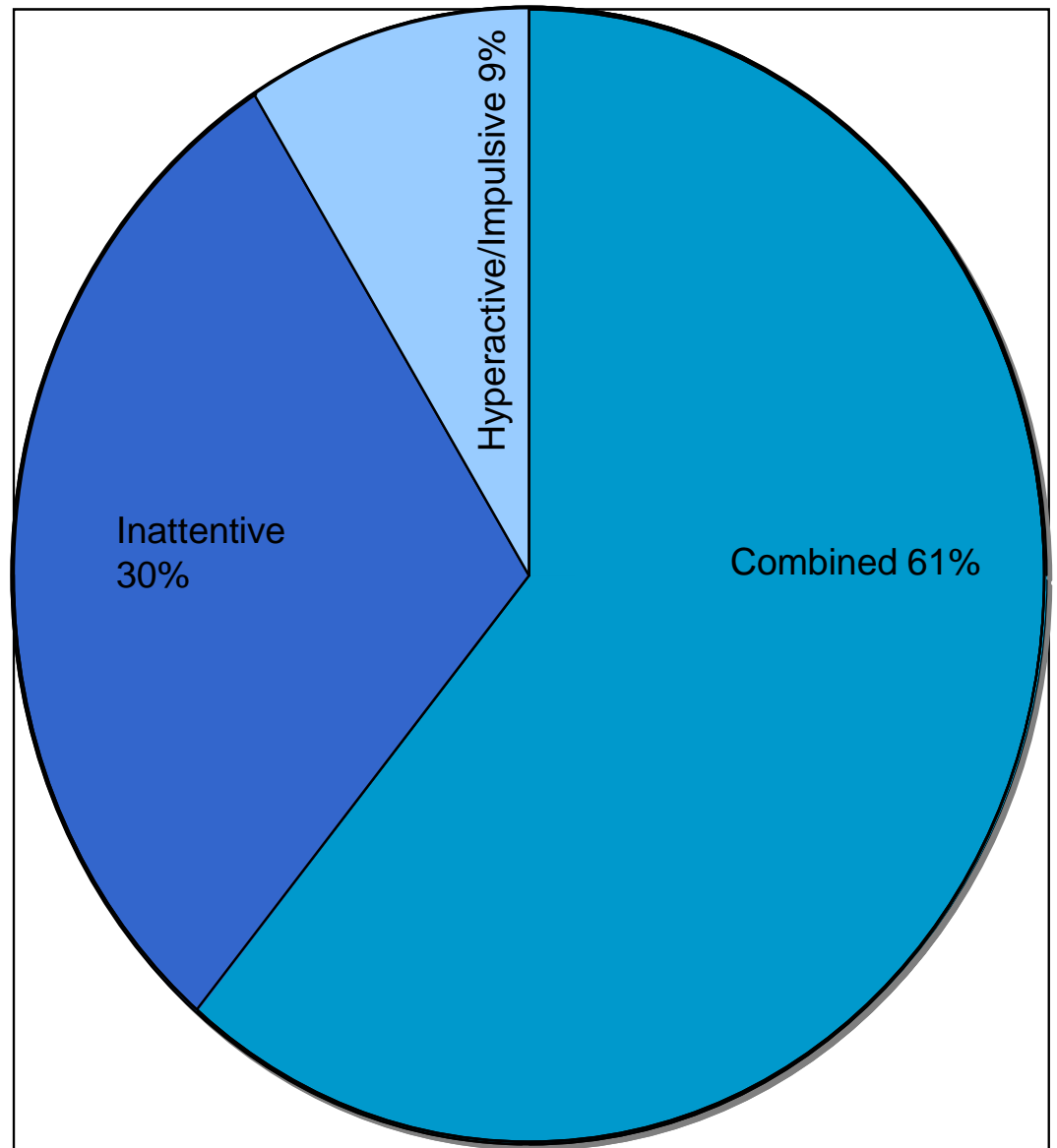


# ADHD: Diagnosis\*

- Inattentive Subtype: 6 or more sx
- Hyperactive/Impulsive sx: 6 or more sx
- Combined type: meet both criteria above
- Some sx present before age of 7
- Not due to medical condition, substance, or better explained by other psychiatric condition

\*= Modified from DSM-IV-TR which should be consulted for full diagnostic criteria.

# ADHD



Faraone et al. J Am Acad Child Adol Psychiatry 1998;37:185-193.



# ADHD

- Prevalence rates: 4-12%
- Male:Female 2.5-5:1
  - Referral bias?
  - Girls: inattentive subtype
- 55-90% monozygotic twin concordance
- As heritable as height



# ADHD and Health

- Asthma
- Major injuries
- Bicycle accidents: 50% greater
- ER visits: 33% greater
- Car accidents: 2-4 times greater
- Healthcare costs: twice those of controls
- Poor peer relationships
- Sex earlier
- More sexual partners
- More teen pregnancy
- Accidents/injuries
- Accidental poisoning

Liebson CL, Katusic SK et al. Use and costs of medical care for children with and without attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. JAMA 2001;285:60-66

Barkley, RA, Fischer M, Smallish L et al. Data from Milwaukee Young Adult Outcome Study (manuscript submitted)

# ADHD: Impact of Untreated & Under-Treated ADHD

## Health Care System

50% ↑ in bike accidents<sup>1</sup>  
33% ↑ in ER visits<sup>2</sup>  
2-4 x more motor vehicle crashes<sup>3-5</sup>

## Patient

## Family

3-5x ↑ Parental Divorce or Separation<sup>11,12</sup>  
2-4 x ↑ Sibling Fights<sup>13</sup>

## School & Occupation

46% Expelled<sup>6</sup>  
35% Drop Out<sup>6</sup>  
Lower Occupational Status<sup>7</sup>

## Society

Substance Use Disorders:  
2 X Risk<sup>8</sup>  
Earlier Onset<sup>9</sup>  
Less Likely to Quit in Adulthood<sup>10</sup>

## Employer

↑ Parental Absenteeism<sup>14</sup> and Productivity<sup>14</sup>

1. DiScala et al., 1998.

2. Liebson et al., 2001.

3. NHTSA, 1997.

4-5. Barkley et al., 1993; 1996.

6. Barkley, et al., 1990.

7. Mannuzza et al., 1997.

8. Biederman et al., 1997.

9. Pomerleau et al., 1995.

10. Wilens et al., 1995.

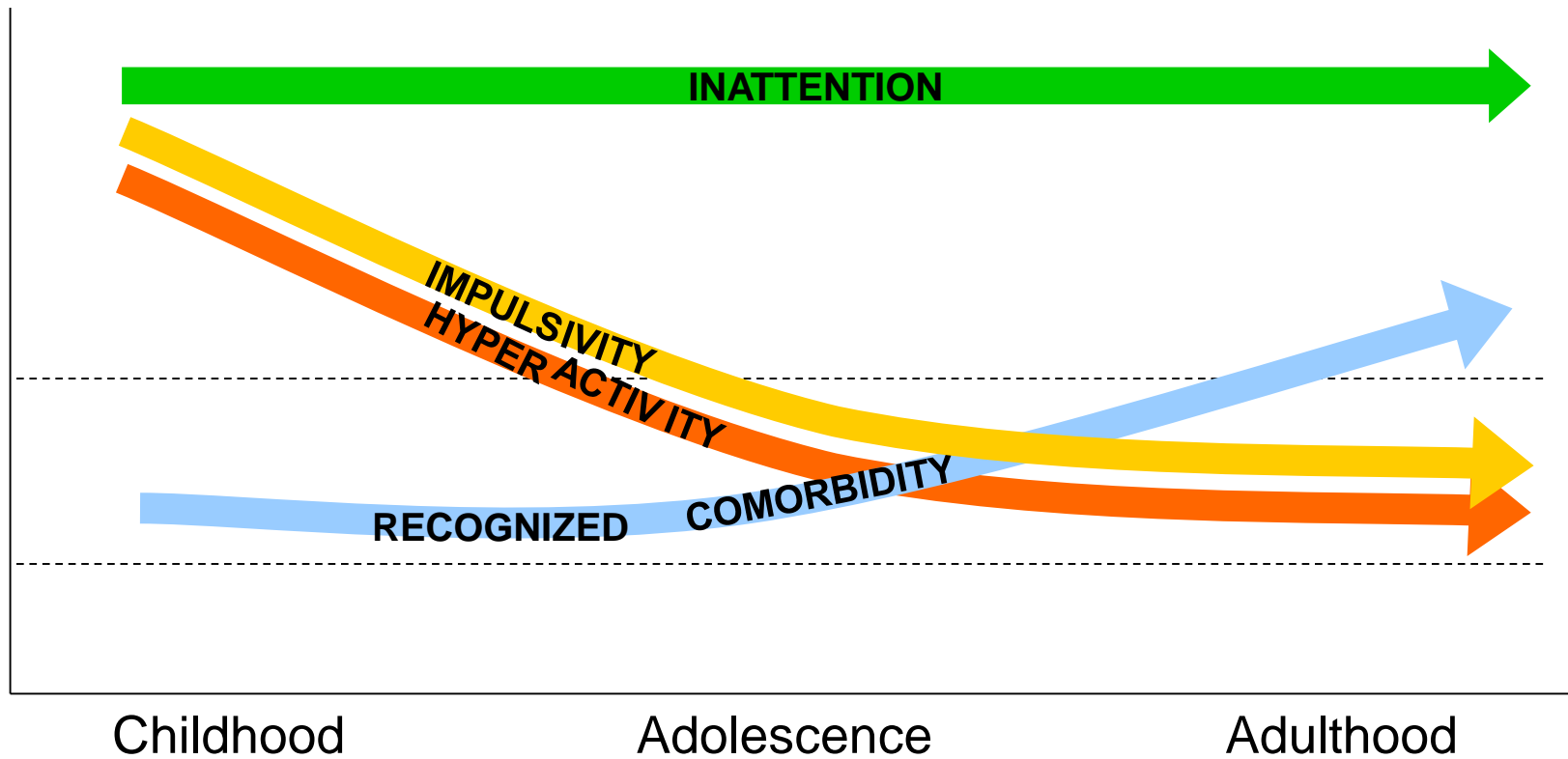
11. Barkley, Fischer et al., 1991.

12. Brown & Pacini, 1989.

13. Mash & Johnston, 1983.

14. Noe et al., 1999.

# ADHD Developmental Trends by Age



# ADHD and Disruptive Behavior Disorders







# ADHD and Disruptive Behaviors

- Disruptive Behaviors:
  - Oppositional Defiant D/O
  - Conduct D/O
  - Disruptive Behavior D/O NOS
- ADHD: 54-84% with significant disruptive behaviors



# ADHD with DBDs: Treatment

- ADHD + Disruptive Sx: anti-ADHD effects of stimulants equal to ADHD alone
- ?Disruptive sx treated by stimulants
  - Conflicting studies
  - Clinical lore: improve but not remit
- Additional Treatment
  - Behavioral interventions
  - Medication



# ADHD and DBDs: Medications

- Practice guidelines: addition of atypical antipsychotic
- Clinical practice: evaluate severity of sx
  - Mild: ADHD treatment alone
  - Moderate: consider alpha-2 agonist
  - Severe: atypical antipsychotic and consider referral
  - Refractory: comorbid conditions and refer



# Alpha-2 Agonists

- Catapres (clonidine)\*
- Tenex (guanfacine)\*
- Intuniv (guanfacine ER)
- Kapvay (clonidine ER)
- Old antihypertensives
- Aggression
- Anger dyscontrol
- Tics
- Poor sleep

\*= Not FDA approved for ADHD treatment



# Catapres (clonidine)\*

- Oral: 0.1mg; 0.2; 0.3mg
- Kapvay (clonidine ER): 0.1 and 0.2mg
- TTS Patch: 1, 2, 3
  - Doses do NOT refer to dose in mg!
  - Rashes: generally due to patch, not medication
- Very potent agent
- Greater risk of:
  - Sedation
  - Orthostasis
  - Rebound hypertension

\*= Not FDA approved for ADHD treatment



# Guanfacine

- Tenex (guanfacine)\*: 1, 2mg
- Intuniv (guanfacine ER): 1, 2, 3, 4 mg
- More selective for adrenergic receptor alpha subtype  $2_A$ 
  - Improved focus
  - Less side effects

\*= Not FDA approved for ADHD treatment



# Alpha-2 Agonists: Side Effects

- Sedation
- Orthostasis
- Worsened mood
- Nightmares
- Rebound hypertension
- Cardiac issues
  - Consider ECG if:
    - Combine with stimulant
    - Taking other agent with cardiac issues

# ADHD: Alpha-2 Agonists

Agent	Doses	Frequency	Starting	Max/Day	Notes
clonidine*	0.1, 0.2, 0.3 mg	IR: TID- QID  TTS: 4-7 days	<45kg: 0.05mg QHS >45kg: 0.1mg QHS	27-40.5kg: 0.2mg  40.5-45kg: 0.3mg  >45kg: 0.4mg	Titrate up by 0.05mg q1-2 weeks Dosing usually TID- QID Taper gently if d/c
guanfacine  Tenex= IR* Intuniv= ER	IR: 1, 2mg  ER: 1, 2, 3, 4 mg	IR: BID- QID  ER: daily	<45kg: 0.5mg QHS  >45kg: 1mg QHS	27-40.5kg: 2mg  40.5-45kg: 3mg  >45kg: 4mg	Titrate up by 0.5mg q1-2 weeks Dosing BID- QID Taper if d/c

\*= Not FDA approved for ADHD treatment





# ADHD and Anxiety

- ADHD: up to 1/3 with significant anxiety
- Fear of worsening anxiety with ADHD treatment
- Inattention or anxiety?

**Algorithm for the Pharmacological Treatment of ADHD with Comorbid Anxiety Disorder, revised 2005.**

**Stage 0**

*Any stage(s) can be skipped depending on the clinical picture.*

**Diagnostic Assessment and Family Consultation Regarding Treatment Alternatives**

**Non-Medication Treatment Alternatives**

**Stage 1**

**Atomoxetine**

**Methylphenidate or Amphetamine**

ADHD and Anxiety Both Improved

ADHD and Anxiety Both Improved

**Continuation**

No Response of ADHD or Anxiety

No Response of ADHD or Anxiety

ADHD Symptoms Improve but not Anxiety

**Stage 2**

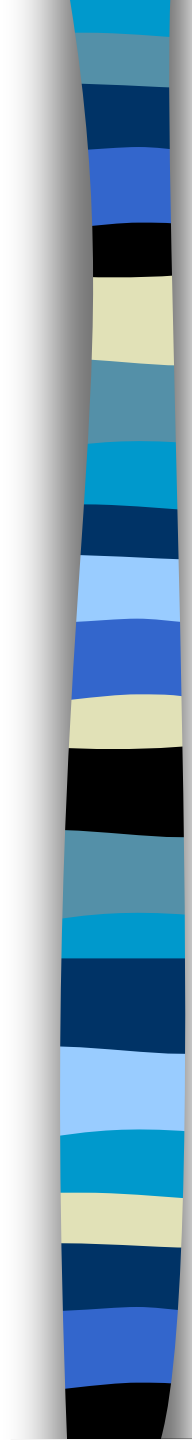
**Methylphenidate or Amphetamine**

**Atomoxetine**

**Add an SSRI**

**Maintenance**

ADHD = Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder  
 SSRI = Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor





# Strattera (atomoxetine)

- Non-stimulant
- Children/Adolescents/Adults
- Inhibits norepinephrine transporter
- Takes 4-6 weeks to see full effect
- Little Antidepressant That Couldn't





# Strattera (atomoxetine)

- Versus Stimulants:
  - Lower response rate
  - Among responders, less robust response
- Second line agent
- May be first line:
  - Substance abuse
  - Anxiety
  - Tics
- Side effects
  - Common: sedation, nausea
  - Rare but serious: suicidality, hepatotoxicity



# ADHD and Depression

- Rates very controversial
- Studies range from 0-33%
- Depression: concentration impairment
- ADHD: low self-esteem

# Algorithm for ADHD Comorbid with Major Depressive Disorder

CMAP ADHD revision

## Stage 0

Any stage(s) can be skipped depending on the clinical picture.

Diagnostic Assessment and Family Consultation Regarding Treatment Alternatives

Non-Medication Treatment Alternatives

ADHD more severe

MDD more severe

## Stage 1

Begin ADHD Algorithm - Stage 1\*

Begin Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) Algorithm - Stage 1\*\*

Both MDD and ADHD improve

Continuation

ADHD improved, no response of depression

ADHD and/or depressive symptoms worsened

Depressive symptoms improve, no response of ADHD

## Stage 2

Begin MDD algorithm, add to ADHD treatment

Discontinue ADHD algorithm, begin MDD algorithm

Begin ADHD algorithm,\* add to MDD treatment



# ADHD and Depression (con't)

- ADHD: responds faster than MDD
- MDD requires medication and mild ADHD sx: consider Wellbutrin\*
- Caution: Prozac (fluoxetine) and Paxil (paroxetine) raise Strattera (atomoxetine) levels



# ADHD: Other Agents

Agent	Doses	Frequency	Starting	Max/Day	Notes
bupropion/ budeprion*	IR: 75, 100mg SR: 100, 150, 200 mg XL: 150, 300 mg	IR: BID-TID  SR: BID  XL: daily	Lesser of 3mg/kg/day or 150mg	Lesser of 6mg/kg/day or 300mg (AACAP)  450mg (clinical practice)	Do not use: seizures, head injuries, bulimia  IR: can be cut SR/XL: cannot be cut
Provigil (modafanil)*	100mg 200mg	Daily-BID	100mg	400mg?	Risk of rash, including SJS

\*= Not FDA approved for ADHD treatment



# Wellbutrin- Contraindications

- Seizures
- Severe head injuries
- Bulimia
- Electrolyte D/O
- Currently using Zyban
- Caution if severe anxiety
- May worsen essential tremor



# ADHD and Bipolar D/O

- Stabilize mood prior to adding on ADHD treatment
- Often difficult to differentiate ADHD and Bipolar D/O sx
- Should be stabilized and likely managed as well by psychiatrist



# ADHD and Substance Abuse

- Smoking: 15-19%
- Greatly increased risk of substance abuse
- Treating ADHD reduces risk of substance misuse disorders to baseline
- Consider non-stimulant options



# ADHD and Learning Disabilities

- Learning/Speech Problems: 25-35%
- Consider if pt appears capable of focusing, but is inattentive/disruptive only at school
- Dx requires formal achievement testing
  - Usually done by school



# ADHD and Tics

- Very common
- Fearful of starting stimulants
- Many pts actually have improvement in tics with ADHD treatment
- Not every tic needs treatment
- Consider Strattera
- Consider alpha-2 agonists before neuroleptics unless very severe



# Conclusion

- Comorbidity very common
- Careful evaluation of which sx are most impairing



# Contact Information

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