

# The Carlat Psychiatry Report

## CONCERTA (methylphenidate extended release) Fact Sheet

**Manufacturer:** McNeil, marketing exclusivity expires 2008

**Indications:**

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in children and adolescents

**Mechanism:** Blocks reuptake of norepinephrine and dopamine

**Dosing:**

- Supplied as 18 mg yellow, 27 mg gray, 36 mg white, and 54 mg brownish-red tablets (not breakable due to extended release vehicle).
- Start at 18 mg QAM, and increase gradually to achieve a response.
- Maximum recommended dose 54 mg in children, 72 mg in adults.

**Side effects:**

- Most common are decreased appetite, weight loss, tics, and nausea.
- All stimulants are required to carry a warning about the possibility of sudden death, primarily in children with pre-existing cardiac abnormalities.
- Risk of stimulant abuse and diversion (Schedule II controlled substance).
- Growth suppression, usually mild, is possible with all stimulants.
- Pregnancy Category C.

**Drug-drug interactions:**

- Avoid in combination with MAOIs.

**Pharmacokinetics:**

- Metabolized by the liver.
- Lasts 8-12 hours.
- Half-life is 3-4 hours.