Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Identify the signs and symptoms of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and determine if a patient meets criteria for diagnosis.
2. Differentiate well-established from proposed etiologies for ADHD.
3. Discuss neuroanatomical and functional brain changes that contribute to the clinical presentation of ADHD.
4. Explain how the symptoms of ADHD may present differently in adults compared with preschoolers, school-age children, and adolescents.
5. Determine if a dietary intervention or supplement is appropriate and evidence-based for managing ADHD in a given patient.
6. Recommend appropriate cognitive and behavioral interventions for managing ADHD in preschoolers, school-age children, adolescents, and adults.
7. Compare and contrast pharmacologic treatment options with regard to efficacy, tolerability, and appropriate dosing recommendations.
8. Compare extended release formulations for ADHD, and explain which preparations have a longer onset of effect and which preparations have a longer duration of effect.
9. Recommend an appropriate dosing and titration schedule for stimulants, atomoxetine, and α₂-adrenergic agonists in the treatment of ADHD.
10. Discuss the role of mood stabilizers and antipsychotics in the treatment of ADHD.
11. Evaluate patient and family complaints to determine if they are related to ADHD medications, and recommend appropriate management strategies.
12. Recommend appropriate baseline assessment prior to the initiation of ADHD medication, and develop an appropriate monitoring plan to ensure safety.
13. Explain the risk of substance abuse in patients with ADHD, and discuss which treatment options are recommended if an individual is at high risk for substance abuse.
14. Given a medication prescribed for ADHD, differentiate common manageable side effects from rare but serious side effects, and discuss these with patients and families.
15. Discuss common comorbid conditions with ADHD and develop a treatment plan that takes into account an individual patient’s comorbid conditions (e.g., ADHD and Tourette Disorder, or ADHD and depression).