

The Carlat Psychiatry Report

STRATTERA (atomoxetine) Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: Eli Lilly, patent expires 2016

Indications:

- Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in children and adults

Mechanism: Blocks reuptake of norepinephrine

Dosing:

- Supplied in 10 mg, 18 mg, 25 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg, 80 mg, and 100 mg capsules.
- **Standard dosing for children** is to begin with 0.4-0.5 mg/kg QAM or BID, and increase after about a week to a target dose of 1.2 mg/kg. **In adults**, start with 40 mg QAM, and increase to 40 mg BID or 80 mg QAM after 3-7 days. Maximum recommended dose is 100 mg/day or 1.4 mg/kg, whichever is lower.
- Studies have shown that once daily dosing is as effective as BID dosing, but BID dosing is better tolerated in terms of GI side effects.
- Decrease dose in hepatic impairment; no dosage reduction required in renal impairment.

Side Effects:

- Most common are **poor appetite, nausea, and sedation**. Weight loss has been reported in some trials. In adults, constipation, dry mouth, urinary retention, and sexual dysfunction have been reported.
- Severe liver damage has been reported, but this is very rare. There are minor increases in pulse and BP.
- **Black Box Warning:** In clinical trials, SSRIs and SNRIs increased the risk of suicidality in children (from 2% to 4%). No actual suicides occurred in these trials, and none of the trials included MAOIs, but all antidepressants are required to carry this warning anyway.

Drug-drug interactions:

- **Metabolized by 2D6**, so reduce its dosage when combined with Prozac or Paxil.
- It can **potentiate the effect of albuterol** on increasing pulse and BP, so be cautious about combining the two.
- Does not inhibit hepatic metabolism, so does not affect levels of other drugs.
- **Can be safely combined with stimulants**, as it does not increase BP and pulse beyond effects produced by stimulants alone.
- Although it is 98% protein bound, it has no effect on levels of coumadin or dilantin.
- Contraindicated with MAOIs.

Pharmacokinetics:

- Half-life is 5 hours. Maximum plasma concentration 1-2 hours after ingestion. 98% protein bound.