

## A closer look at Adderall, Ritalin, Metadate, Concerta, Stimulants

First some nerdy technical stuff:

Some stimulant drugs that has been gaining popularity by students are Ritalin and Adderall, and Concerta.. The trade name for these drugs is (meth-ill-**fen**-i-date) **methylphenidate**.

Ritalin and Adderall are two of the most prevalent prescription drugs used in the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). Both of these medications are classified as Schedule II drugs in the amphetamine class. Even though they are stimulants, when prescribed as directed by a medical provider in standard doses for people with ADHD and ADD, these prescription drugs have been shown to assist some people with AD(H)D to sustain their attention for a longer amount of time. This allows them to study or complete tasks at hand much more effectively minus the feelings associated with the medications' "speed-like" effects.

What's the problem?

Like most prescription drugs when taken as prescribed by a doctor there is a minimum chance of dependency or addiction disorders that can occur.

Ritalin is an addictive drug and mimics the action of chemicals your brain produces to send messages of pleasure to your brain's reward center. Ritalin produces an artificial feeling of pleasure.

Methylphenidate's pharmacologically speaking, work on the neurotransmitter dopamine, (feel good chemicals) in the brain (noggin), and in that respect resembles the stimulant characteristics of cocaine. When taken in accordance with usual prescription instructions, it would be classified as having mild to moderate stimulant properties. In this form of

but when snorted or injected it has a strong stimulant effect like cocaine.

severe depression  
psychosis  
restlessness  
extreme feelings of agitation

agitation, insomnia  
abdominal cramps  
nausea  
severe emotional depression  
exhaustion  
anxiety

feeling of pleasure. Ritalin produces its pleasurable effects by chemically acting like certain normal brain messenger chemicals, which produce positive feelings in response to signals from the brain.

The result is an addiction to Ritalin because the individual can depend on the immediate, fast, predictable high Ritalin provides. At the same time, Ritalin short circuits interests in and the motivation to make life's normal rewards work. More and more confidence is placed on Ritalin while other survival feelings are ignored and bypassed. Ritalin

<http://www.drugs.com/forum/featured-drugs/adderall-side-effects-35259.html>

Withdrawal varies in severity and length. The withdrawal from Ritalin addiction depends on the amount and duration of time an the individual was addicted to Ritalin.

Misdiagnosis of ADHD is a common problem that complicates the Ritalin controversy. Some say that Ritalin is now over-prescribed, and that undesirable changes in the brain may result over time.

ADHD children are typically taken off of Ritalin when they reach adulthood.

Interestingly, these individuals seem to be more prone to cocaine addiction. Why is that? Because Ritalin and cocaine are similar drugs, it's possible that ADHD adults are

unknowingly using cocaine as a replacement for Ritalin. In other words, it may be an attempt to self-medicate. Cocaine may help individuals with ADHD focus, feel calm and in control

Recent animal studies suggest that children who are mistakenly diagnosed with ADHD and treated with Ritalin may be more likely to develop depression as adults. This can be explained by Ritalin's effects on the reward pathway.

We know that Ritalin increases dopamine levels in the brain. But an unnecessary increase in dopamine during childhood may change how the brain develops. The brain may become desensitized to natural rewards like food, romance and social interactions, leading to depression

You may think that you are safer and more frugal by snorting Ritalin and Adderall, rather than cocaine, but you are harming yourself in similar ways. You also run the risk of arrest for having and using these substances without a prescription.

Schedule II drugs, such as Ritalin and Adderall, however, have a high propensity for misuse, abuse, and dependence. Widely prescribed for school-age children by medical professionals, many adolescents and young adults snort Ritalin and Adderall as they believe that they are safe alternatives to cocaine. This could not be further from the truth. First, both the potency of Ritalin and Adderall exponentially increase when they are snorted or injected because they enter the bloodstream directly. Second, prescription medications, especially when they are not prescribed for the user, as with illicit drugs, do not diminish their potential for harm. These actions make the misuse/abuses of these substances as or more harmful than cocaine, since the user may believe snorting Adderall and Ritalin is safe.

Dangerous side effects from inhaling Ritalin and Adderall include:

- respiratory problems, such as destruction of the nasal and sinus cavities and lung tissue
- irregular heartbeat (heart arrhythmia)
- problems with circulation
- psychotic episodes
- increased aggression

- toxic shock
- death, in extreme cases

As Adderall is similar in its chemical makeup to methamphetamine, it poses additional dangers. Extended, continuous abuse can result in developmental problems concerning the brain and negative changes in brain wave activity. If someone misuses/abuses Ritalin, Adderall, or both, help is necessary to stop using, not only to prevent further harm, but also to keep the person safe during withdrawal. Once one has become addicted to these substances, stopping could cause withdrawal symptoms similar to those with cocaine, such as:

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