August 2012

ADHD Questions

1. Q: What are the core symptoms of ADHD?

A: 1. Hyperactivity

1. Impulsiveness

 3. Inattention

1. Q: What are the classes of drugs used to treat ADHD?

A: 1. Stimulants

2. Non Stimulants

3. Antidepressants

4. Alpha 2 Adrenergic Agonists

5. Antipsychotics

1. Q: What are the psychostimulant medications used to treat ADHD?

A: 1. Dextroamphetamine

2. Lisdexamfetamine

3. Methylphenidate

4. Mixed Salts

 5. Amphetamine

1. Q: How effective are stimulants in the treatment of ADHD?

A: 65 to 80% of ADHD patients will experience a 50% reduction in core sx.

1. Q: Patients who do not tolerate or respond to one stimulant should be

switched to another when?

A: After 3 to 4 weeks of therapy.

1. Q: What are the studied 3 year follow up side effects of stimulants in children?

A: On average they were 2 cm shorter and weighed 2.7 kg less than the un-medicated controls

1. Q: What is the non-stimulant drug used to treat ADHD?

A: Atomoxitine

1. Q: How does Atomoxitine work?

A: It is a Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor not classified as a stimulant.

1. Q: When is Atomoxetine to be used?

A: 1. After a stimulant trial with intolerance or non-response.

 2. In patients over 6 years of age.

1. Q: What ethnic group may not metabolize Atomoxetine well?

A: Asians

1. Q: How is Atomoxetine to be dosed?

A: ½ mg per kg for 1 week, then up dose to 1 to 1.2 mg per kg.

1. Q: How effective is Atomoxetine?

A: The efficacy approaches that of stimulants.

1. Q: What role do anti-depressants play in the treatment of ADHD?

A: 1. Second or third line treatment.

2. Adjunctive treatment.

1. Q: Which anti-depressants are used to treat ADHD?

A: 1. Bupropion

2. Venlafaxine

3. Desipramine

4. Imipramine

5. Nortryptaline

1. Q: What role do Alpha 2 Adrenergic Agonists play in treating ADHD?

A: 1. Second or third line treatment.

2. They reduce aggression, impulsivity, over arousal, and hyperactivity.

1. Q: Name an Alpha 2 Adrenergic Agonist medication?

A: Clonadine