



Atomoxetine



About

Atomoxetine works differently from other ADHD medicines. It's a selective noradrenaline reuptake inhibitor (SNRI), which means it increases the amount of a chemical in the brain called noradrenaline. This chemical passes messages between brain cells, and increasing it can aid concentration and help control impulses. Atomoxetine may be offered to adults, teenagers and children over the age of 5 if it's not possible to use methylphenidate or lisdexamfetamine. It's also licensed for use in adults if symptoms of ADHD are confirmed.



Taking the Medication

Atomoxetine comes in capsule form, usually taken once or twice a day. If you or your child is prescribed this medication, you'll probably be given small doses at first, which may then be gradually increased. You or your child will need to see a doctor for regular check-ups to ensure the treatment is working effectively and check for signs of any side effects or problems.



Side Effects

Common side effects of atomoxetine include:

- a small increase in blood pressure and heart rate
- nausea and vomiting
- stomach aches
- trouble sleeping
- dizziness
- headaches
- irritability

Atomoxetine has also been linked to some more serious side effects that are important to look out for, including suicidal thoughts and liver damage. If either you or your child begin to feel depressed or suicidal while taking this medicine, speak to your doctor.



Further Information

You can read further information ADHD and treatments available here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adhd/treatment/>

