

Table 3. Side Effects of Non-Stimulant Medications, 2011

TRANSIENT SIDE EFFECTS: Stomach aches, constipation, dry mouth, and tiredness; typically resolve within the first month			
Atomoxetine	<p>Dizziness or Syncope (rare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review family and youth history of cardiac symptoms – Monitor blood pressure and pulse – Encourage adequate hydration 	<p>Daytime Drowsiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Try giving in the evening for the first 30 days, and then switch to morning; if persists, use evening 	<p>Sexual Dysfunction (rare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use additional medication as a last resort
	<p>Jaundice (rare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Discontinue treatment with atomoxetine – Monitor for reverse of signs and symptoms – File adverse event report with FDA – Try another class of medication <p><i>*No routine monitoring of LFTs is recommended at this time</i></p>	<p>Suicidal Ideation (rare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Discontinue treatment with atomoxetine – File adverse event report with FDA – Refer to mental health specialist <p><i>*Atomoxetine has a black box warning regarding suicidal ideation requiring close monitoring</i></p>	<p>Aggression/Hostility (rare)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Determine if new onset or substantive worsening of symptoms not related to other causes; if yes, discontinue treatment with atomoxetine – File adverse event report with FDA – Refer to mental health specialist
Alpha Agonists	<p>Dizziness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To minimize dizziness and lightheadedness when rising from a seated or lying position, get up slowly 	<p>Drowsiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Avoid hot showers, saunas, and prolonged exercise since excessive heat can intensify dizziness – Caution is advised when performing tasks requiring alertness (e.g., driving) 	<p>Constipation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consult your doctor for appropriate treatment
	<p>Headache and Fatigue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consult your doctor to find out which medications are safe to take with the alpha agonists 	<p>Loss of Appetite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use at or after meals – Encourage frequent snacking – Try “drug holidays” 	<p>Diarrhea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – You may use over-the-counter medications to counteract diarrhea – However, check with your doctor to see what can be done about this side effect
	<p>Hypotension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – May result in simple faint – Certain medication should be used with caution, particularly in people with cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, or conditions associated with low blood pressure 	<p>Dry Mouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For temporary relief of mouth dryness, use sugarless candy or gum, melt bits of ice in your mouth, or use a saliva substitute – If dry mouth continues for more than 2 weeks, check with your physician or dentist 	<p>Rebound Hypertension on Discontinuation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Do not stop medication suddenly, wean slowly if discontinuing <p><i>*Caution is advised when using this drug in the very young and elderly because they may be more sensitive to the side effects of the drug.</i></p>

Adapted from Conners CK, Jett JL. *Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (In Adults and Children): The Latest Assessment and Treatment Strategies*. Kansas City, MO: Compact Clinicals; 1991; Block SL. Attention-deficit disorder: a paradigm for psychotropic medication intervention in pediatrics. *Pediatr Clin North Am*. 1998;45(5):1053-1083; and Wilens TE. *Straight Talk about Psychiatric Medications for Kids*. New York, NY: Guilford Press; 1999.