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## ADHD drugs to carry new warnings about psychotic behavior

Tuesday, August 22, 2006 by: NewsTarget

[Printable version](#) Key concepts: [adhd](#), [ADHD drugs](#) and [dangerous drugs](#).

(NewsTarget) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced yesterday that several ADHD drugs must now carry information on the labels warning consumers of the risk of heart problems and psychotic behavior associated with taking the drugs.

FDA spokeswoman Susan Bro says GlaxoSmithKline's Dextroamphetamine and Novartis AG's Ritalin must now include warnings about risks of serious heart problems and sudden death. ADHD drugs act as stimulants and can raise blood pressure, possibly triggering heart trouble. Users of the drugs are also at risk of displaying behavioral problems -- which the drugs are often prescribed to treat -- such as aggression and mania.

Bro was unable to confirm whether Johnson & Johnson's Concerta drug and Eli Lilly's Strattera were also included in the warning mandate. However, Strattera already includes cautions about suicidal thoughts, and Shire Plc's Adderall warns users that abuse can cause [heart problems](#).

Bro also could not confirm whether the warnings would be in a "black box" -- the FDA's strongest warning. However, on Monday, Glaxo's letter alerting doctors of the new warnings indicated that the caution was boxed.

The decision comes after two separate outside review panels split on whether or not to include warnings, and whether or not to enforce a black box on the warnings. Some doctors say they are concerned that the warnings could frighten patients away from using the drugs. The FDA estimates roughly 1 million adults and 2 million children fill ADHD drug prescriptions every month.

Critics of [ADHD drugs](#) say the medications are not only dangerous, but largely unnecessary and overprescribed. "Black box warnings," said Mike Adams, a consumer health advocate and critic of the practice of medicating children with psychotropic drugs, "are a clever tool used by the FDA to avoid banning [dangerous drugs](#). By resorting to warnings that most consumers and doctors ignore, the agency can imply that responsibility for harm is shifted to the consumer. In reality, the FDA shoulders the full blame for allowing these dangerous drugs to remain on the market."

###

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We absolutely should NOT be giving children any unneeded prescribed medication. Children's immune system are not as strong as adults, we all know this. Most importantly, why are parents giving their children DRUGS that carry life threatening risks? That's simply not love, but the parents easy way out! Parents need to learn alternative medicine and stop killing their own kids!

- Alan Houston, TX

This is worse than the cigarette companies because a trusted physician is in cahoots with them. Money controls everything!

- chrey103 springfield USA

Stimulants have side effects. Adult patients have to decide for themselves whether the benefits of stimulants are worth the risks.

Rather than blaming the FDA for not banning the drugs, perhaps the critics should blame the FDA for all the deaths that are a direct result of the FDA's approval process.

1) If a drug costs \$500 million to a billion to get approved, drug companies will never work on cures for diseases that affect smaller numbers of people.

2) Because the FDA bends over backwards to assure that drugs don't harm patients, it takes forever. Patients die waiting for the FDA. The real irony is that all the effort still doesn't stop the occasional dangerous drug from getting through.

Abolish the FDA, and let doctors and their patients choose what risks to take for themselves.

- firedog Boulder CO

Why can't we let children be children? Here's a wonderful article: "The CHILDisorder" at [http://www.naturalchild.org/jan\\_hunt/child\\_disorder.html](http://www.naturalchild.org/jan_hunt/child_disorder.html).

- Jennie Minneapolis USA

This is good information, and I do worry that there are people out there abusing these drugs. However, I also know these drugs have saved the "sanity" of my 10 year old son, and without them he would not be able to function in society. With them, he is not only functioning, but succeeding at an incredible and wonderful way. I just pray he doesn't have to deal with the side-effects.

- Malia Seattle United States

I had my son on Dexedrine for a few months last year as we were desperate - he was in a crisis situation at school and facing suspension for playground aggression.

Although it helped to control him somewhat in the classroom, he had several episodes of heart palpitations while playing or in gym activities, and several times when he was 'coming down' off the drug late in the day he would experience uncontrollable anger.

He's now off the drug, and we're choosing to use more holistic methods - more Omega's, L Theanine (were just in a study for that in Vancouver BC), and more veggies/less junk food. He's doing MUCH better, hoping for a good school year.

- Laura Vancouver Canada

My 16 year old son (15 at the time) was prescribed Strattera for ADD. We were very frightened by the effect this drug had on his personality and took him off shortly thereafter.

He became quite aggressive and seemingly depressed. He just had a look of sadness about him.

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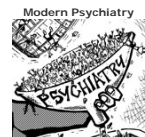
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We will never again give him a drug for ADD. Instead, we are trying natural alternatives and trying to eliminate things from his diet like MSG, among others.

- **A concerned mother USA**

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I have been on and off of ADD medication since I was in middle school, I am 21 now.

I have found one of the best solutions - a healthy diet (no fast food!) and ATTEND + MEMORIN from the company VAXA. go to [www.vaxa.com](http://www.vaxa.com) and click on Attention Difficulties and Memory Support on the left menu bar.

Of course, read NewsTarget.com everyday, and stay aware of health issues and care about your mind and body (or just name it mind-body, since we are 1 organism).

Superfood powder supplements are a must also (Miracle Greens, Pure Synergy, Green Vibrance, Garden of Life) check all those out, especially Pure Synergy and Green Vibrance, amazing products.

Give your children and yourself the healthiest foods and you will notice immediate changes in behavior and attention difficulties.

Meditation practice should also be a well understood and practiced method in daily life for improving focused attention with a calm and peaceful mind.

- **Chris DiMarco Moorestown, NJ USA**

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TO CONCERNED MOMS: your child does not need to be put on these dangerous drugs.

Two of the leading doctors in the field of ADHD recommend a product called Juice Plus.

Please go to my website ([pearlhaygood.com](http://pearlhaygood.com)) and click on "Science of Juice Plus" and contact me for information on how a child (ages 6 thru 15) can get the product FREE)

This is fresh, raw fruits, vegetables and grains in convenient capsule form.

- **Pearl Haygood Jackson USA**

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First of all, the corn syrup in all products should be banned.

Children are overdosed with sugar which leaves an impact on motor neurons.

You cannot even find frozen juice concentrate without sugar added.

I refer parents to [www.NeuroGenesis.com](http://www.NeuroGenesis.com) with ADHD.

Linda Paulhus [www.alsalternative.com](http://www.alsalternative.com)

- **Linda Paulhus Newburyport, Ma. 01950 USA**

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I was on Ritalin for 8 years growing up. I was evaluated every six months by a pediatrician who always 'Felt good about my progress.'

After finishing high school (with honors) I started college with out the Ritalin. I saw absolutely no difference in my concentration level.

I do believe that some people have a harder time concentrating than others, but I don't think there should be any drugs for this 'disability'.

There are other things that can be done that don't harm Health!

- **Jen Virginia Beach USA**

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This is just so darned scary. We subject those who are the most vulnerable to a substance that only a small percentage actually need. We, as adults, have determined that children haven't the capacity to make an informed decision, so we do it for them. However, as both a participant and observer in the health industry, it has become stunningly clear that most adults haven't the capacity to make truly informed decisions, either. How very sad.

Way back in 1999, we published an article in our newsletter called "Teach Your Children Well" (<http://www.appliedhealth.com/AHS-Journal/Newsletter-Archive/Eat-Your-Way-To-a-Healthy-Heart/#sec2>) in which ADHD was referenced as just one symptom that arises from poor nutritional practices during developmental years. But we have had to swim against the "quick fix" current.

It is a non-trivial effort to "re-educate" the general public when drug companies and mainstream medical practitioners continue to preach the quick fix with a pill.

Typically, there is never a mention that the parents should accept responsibility to review their child's diet and nutritional needs. No, instead, most parents would rather slip the kid a pill and allow the child to swallow it with a can of soda pop.

Sadly, in spite of the best efforts of people like Mike Adams and ourselves, the trend shows every indication of getting worse before it gets better.

Bill Evans, President, Applied Health Solutions, Inc. ([appliedhealth.com](http://appliedhealth.com))

- **Bill Evans**

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I am sadly watching an 8 year old neighbor boy who has loved coming over to my house since he was 4 go through some obvious ADHD drug symptoms.

He was put on the drugs because he is so active, loves life and not afraid to try anything but adults don't know how to handle this energy and parents are encouraged from teachers, etc, to do something about it.

It just hurts me so much when I see the effects of the drug. He has had speech problems, subdued/subservient mannerisms, constant eye blinking, neck spasms where he actually told me his neck was bothering him as he was constantly jerking his neck forward like a chicken.

Sometimes I just can't see him like this so I tell him I am busy when he stops by and I feel so guilty because he loves to spend time at my house. And, I feel I can't say anything to the parents or I would be over-stepping my bounds and then he wouldn't be able to come over at all. Such a sad dilemma.

- **Robin San Jose**

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I thought there was a "war on drugs" going on! Yet, the AMA and Big Pharma believe that it is perfectly ok to drug our children. That is much more profitable than eliminating the things that cause ADD/ADHD such as sugar, chemicals and artificial ingredients in our foods. "Can I supersize those fries for you...how 'bout a 32 oz. Coke with that burger?"

As a Naturopathic Doctor and Nutritionist, I can't thank you enough, Mike, for your web site and all that you do. Keep up the good work. You rock!! Dr. Elle Guastella

- **Dr. Linda M. Guastella Shelby Township USA**

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The medical industry is wanting America to stay sick, not help heal or cure since that is illegal in this country I had read.

A few good sites: [www.discoverhealth.wholefoodfarmacy.com](http://www.discoverhealth.wholefoodfarmacy.com) (Phi Plus is a great healthy snack) [www.alkalizeforhealth.com](http://www.alkalizeforhealth.com) (want to find out how crooked our government truly is: [www.infowars.com](http://www.infowars.com) when it comes to our health, politics, economy, security.)

- **Michael Hollidaysburg USA**

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I'm so glad for websites like this and others because I have been saying the same things about drugs for some time now...

It kills, not heals.

- **B.L. Joe Bob BOURBONNAIS USA**

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And to add to this.: In your NewsTarget article on "The top ten things food companies don't want you to know" - it states in there about processed foods and ADHD.... come off of that food and most likely the child will not have ADHD in a very short time.

- **Buckster Puyallup**

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Great

- **Jim**

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The created disorders ADD/ADHD are labels slapped on a group of symptoms that are prevalent in many actual physiological problems. The symptoms are the same symptoms as hypoglycemia and other illnesses such as allergies, parasite invasion, improper digestion of gluten and casein, mercury and other metal poisoning, etc.

In their eagerness to serve the Big Pharma many conventional doctors routinely diagnose unhappy children with fictitious ADD/ADHD, without doing proper investigation as to the causes of the supposed offending behaviours.

Personally, I really like the questioning child, that challenges authority, speaks their minds, and that makes you think, and rethink what is happening in the world. Quite often from the mouths of babes we hear the truth so simply and elegantly spoken. Way to often it is these children, who are forced on drugs.

www.BlockCenter.com is an excellent website for the treatment of learning disorders. Dr. Block, does comprehensive, thorough analysis of the physiology of the child. She leaves out nothing in her quest to resolve the health issues facing a child.

I vigorously, oppose, the use of psychiatric drugs on ANYONE, much less, children. The field of Psychiatry is NOT a field of MEDICINE. They concoct diseases. They have NO proof of any of their claims, established by a scientific method.

They claim that the so-called 'mental illnesses' are caused by 'chemical imbalances' in the brain. They totally pollute, and maim, people's minds and bodies with substances that DO NOT EXIST in the brain. If there is a chemical imbalance in the brain, why don't they 'balance' these chemicals with the actual chemicals, (nutrients) the brain uses. What they do is put water in the gas tank.

I asked a psychiatrist this question and he told me they didn't know how to test for the different chemicals in the brain. This is a total lie. They can test for all of the different nutrients we eat. What we eat produces the activity of our brain. For instance, if we eat foods that are high in choline, we will improve our memory and cognition. Choline and Vitamin C are necessary for the Acetylcholinergic system in the brain. Etc. etc. etc.

They are racketeers, hoodwinking and deceiving the people into believing a bunch of nonsense and the process murdering millions of us.

- **Dianne Saskatoon Canada**

If parents would just put their kids on alot of vegetables, cut the sugars, sodium nitrates, excitotoxins, hydrogenated oils and give them a natural mineral like zeolite, they would notice a dramatic change in their kids without having to give them toxic drugs.

- **Andrea St. Anne USA**

I think the facts about having good nutrition are slowly getting out. According to the book "Protein Power", many medical problems such as high blood pressure, diabetes and other disorders can actually be cured by eating the right diet. The bad diet is the high carbohydrate, low fat diet. You can get used copies of the book for 1 cent on Amazon. I have no financial interest in this book.

- **George Flynn Ridge USA**

It is not commonly recognized that ALL DRUGS have the potential to kill in the right dose. They are all poisons. Look in any textbook of clinical toxicology. All drugs have what is called an LD50 and an LD100. That means LETHAL DOSE. 50% of those taking the LD50 dose will die, 100% taking that LD100 dose will die.

Add to that the fact that whatever a drug is prescribed to alleviate it can also cause. Then ask yourself why you would take or give such a poison.

- **Dr. Art, D.C. Calif.**

Al I can say why do these things happen in this country this day and age. I guess its hard to put people before a multi-billion industry.

- **PA**



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"Your site is so interesting! I love what you have to say in every area. The articles on the real estate bubble are very clear and, I believe, right on target (thank goodness I own my house free and clear and don't have a second one). Your nutrition stuff is always excellent too, and the political stuff is so fun and right on "target". Keep up the great work!" - T. Miller

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