

## Atomoxetine (pronounced at-o-mocks-e-teen)



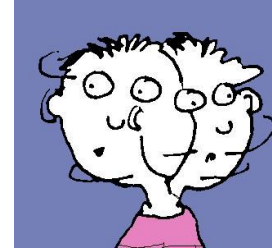
### What is atomoxetine?

Atomoxetine (also known as Strattera<sup>®</sup>) is used to help treat the symptoms of ADHD. It is available as capsules.

### What is ADHD?

ADHD stands for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. ADHD can cause you to be restless, easily distracted, not finish things, get into trouble, do things without thinking first, and not do well at school.

Atomoxetine helps boost the part of the brain that should be helping you to concentrate. This helps you concentrate better, so you can work better at school, not get into trouble as much and even sleep better.



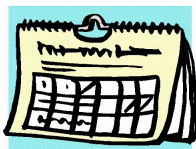
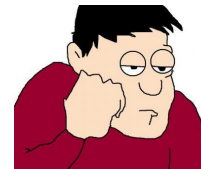
### How and when should I take atomoxetine?

Atomoxetine is best taken with food. Swallow the capsules with at least half a glass of water while you are sitting or standing. This is to make sure that they reach the stomach and do not stick in your throat.

Take your atomoxetine as directed on the medicine label. Taking it at mealtimes may make it easier for you to remember. If the label says to only take it once a day this is usually best in the morning. If the label says twice a day then take it in the morning, and then late afternoon or early evening.

### How long will I have to wait before it works?

It normally takes about 4 weeks to start to work for ADHD. It may then take up to three months for the full effect.

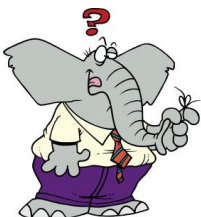


### How long will I need to keep taking atomoxetine for?

Probably for several years. Some people keep on taking it even when they have become adults. Talk to your doctor every 12 months or so about this.

### Can I stop taking atomoxetine suddenly?

You can stop taking atomoxetine, even suddenly. It is best to talk this over first with relatives, or your doctor, nurse or pharmacist first. Things normally work out much better if you stop medication in a planned way.



### What should I do if I forget to take a dose of atomoxetine?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember unless it is within about 4-6 hours of your next dose. If you remember after this just take the next dose as normal. Do not try to catch up by taking two doses at once as you may get more side-effects.








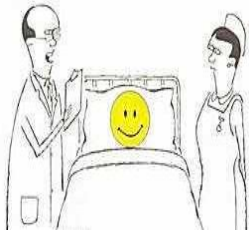
### Can I cycle or drive while I am taking atomoxetine?

You may feel a bit light-headed at first when taking atomoxetine. Until this wears off, or you know how atomoxetine affects you, be careful cycling and, if you are old enough, do not drive or operate machinery.



### What sort of side-effects might I get if I am taking atomoxetine?

The table below will show you some of the main side effects you might get from atomoxetine, and what you can do about them. The more common ones are nearer the top.

 <p><b>Not feeling hungry.</b> You will usually get your appetite back in a few weeks. If not, let your doctor know next time you meet.</p>	 <p><b>Feeling sick or being sick, or stomach pain.</b> This usually wears off in a few weeks. If not, let your doctor know. Taking it after food may help.</p>
 <p><b>Not being able to get to sleep at night.</b> This can be a problem. Let your doctor know. He or she may be able to change your dose.</p>	 <p><b>Feeling dizzy, light-headed or faint.</b> Do not stand up too quickly. Try and lie down when you feel it coming on. Do not cycle or drive.</p>
 <p><b>Feeling moody, irritable, low and waking up early in the morning.</b> If this occurs, discuss with your doctor as soon as possible.</p>	 <p><b>Constipation.</b> When you want to poop but can't (the opposite of diarrhoea). Make sure you have enough fibre, cereals or fruit and drink enough fluid. If this does not help, ask your doctor or pharmacist for a mild laxative.</p>
 <p><b>Skin rashes.</b> This can include red rashes on the skin, dermatitis, or itching. If this happens, you should stop atomoxetine and call your doctor or hospital straight away if you get swelling or hives (small raised, itchy patches of skin).</p>	 <p><b>Jaundice.</b> If you get pain just under the ribs, looking a bit yellow, and feeling sick, stop taking atomoxetine and contact your doctor straight away, don't delay.</p>

Do not be worried by this list of side effects. Some people get no side effects at all and others may get some effects that are not listed in this table. If you think you might have a side effect to your medicine, you should ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. If you want to know more, go to our website for links to other websites with more information.

**The small print:** This leaflet is to help you understand about your medicine. You should also read the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (PIL). You may find lots more on the internet but beware as internet-based information is not always accurate. Do not share medicines with anyone else. Go to our website for fuller answers to these and many other questions e.g. driving, women's health, how it works, doses and interactions, and about the conditions. The "Handy charts" will help you compare the main medicines for each condition, how they work and their side effects.