Ritalin advertisement.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1977

"How wonderful! Andy's handwriting no longer looks

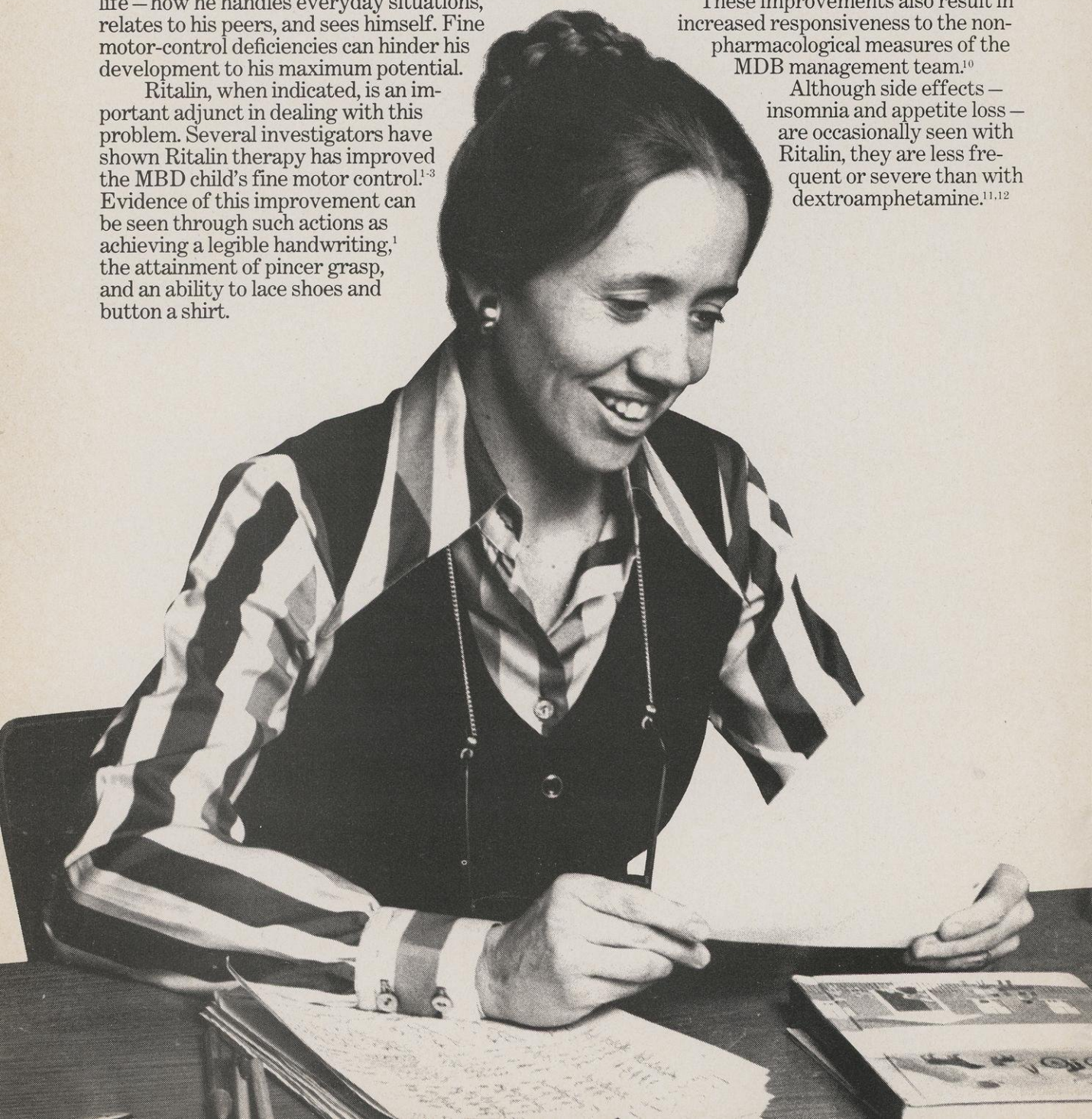
Fine motor-control deficiencies are often of concern to both the family and the teacher of an MBD child. Among these deficiencies are an inability to properly hold a pencil, an inability to grasp or release objects, and poor writing skills. This condition can affect the MBD child's daily life – how he handles everyday situations, relates to his peers, and sees himself. Fine motor-control deficiencies can hinder his development to his maximum potential.

Ritalin, when indicated, is an important adjunct in dealing with this problem. Several investigators have shown Ritalin therapy has improved the MBD child's fine motor control.[1-3] Evidence of this improvement can be seen through such actions as achieving a legible handwriting,[1] the attainment of pincer grasp, and an ability to lace shoes and button a shirt.

Based on controlled studies and clinical experience, Ritalin has proved itself to be a drug of choice for MDB.[4,5] In over 12 years of use, Ritalin has demonstrated the ability to significantly reduce hyperactivity,[6-8] distractibility,[2,6,9] and aggressiveness[6] in the MBD child.

These improvements also result in increased responsiveness to the non-pharmacological measures of the MDB management team.[10]

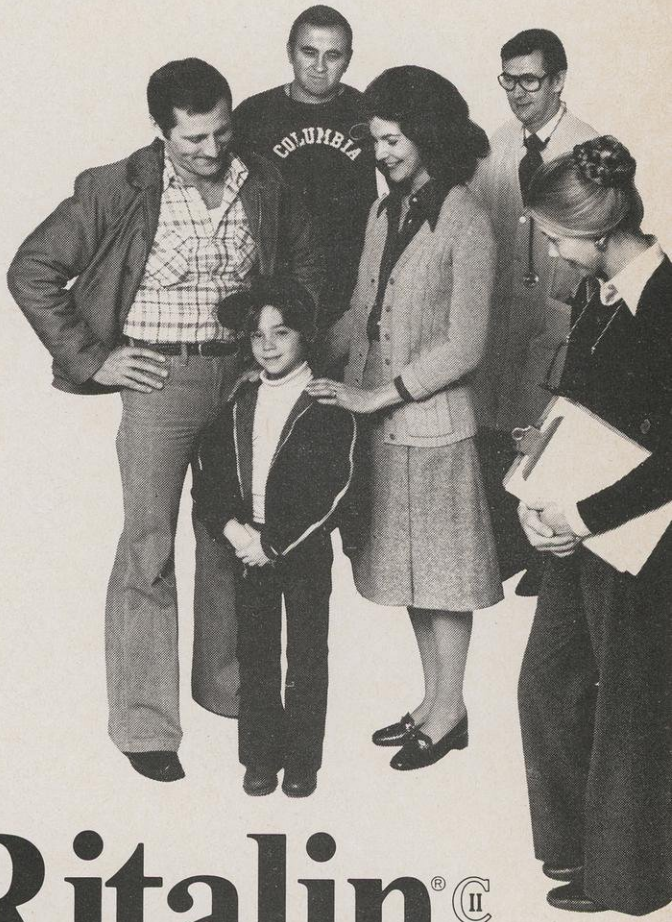
Although side effects – insomnia and appetite loss – are occasionally seen with Ritalin, they are less frequent or severe than with dextroamphetamine.[11,12]



like hen scratchings"

Therapy with Ritalin should be undertaken only after a medical diagnosis of MBD has been made. Dosage should be periodically interrupted. Often these interruptions reveal some "stabilization" in the child's behavior even without medication. In some MBD children they permit a reduction in dosage and eventual discontinuance of drug therapy.

Only when medication is indicated



Ritalin® (II)

(methylphenidate)

An effective member of the MBD management team

Please turn page for brief prescribing information.

CIBA

Ritalin® hydrochloride
(methylphenidate hydrochloride)
TABLETS

INDICATION

Minimal Brain Dysfunction in Children—as adjunctive therapy to other remedial measures (psychological, educational, social)

Special Diagnostic Considerations

Specific etiology of Minimal Brain Dysfunction (MBD) is unknown, and there is no single diagnostic test. Adequate diagnosis requires the use not only of medical but of special psychological, educational, and social resources.

Characteristics commonly reported include: chronic history of short attention span, distractibility, emotional lability, impulsivity, and moderate to severe hyperactivity; minor neurological signs and abnormal EEG. Learning may or may not be impaired. The diagnosis of MBD must be based upon a complete history and evaluation of the child and not solely on the presence of one or more of these characteristics.

Drug treatment is not indicated for all children with MBD. Stimulants are not intended for use in the child who exhibits symptoms secondary to environmental factors and/or primary psychiatric disorders, including psychosis. Appropriate educational placement is essential and psychosocial intervention is generally necessary. When remedial measures alone are insufficient, the decision to prescribe stimulant medication will depend upon the physician's assessment of the chronicity and severity of the child's symptoms.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Marked anxiety, tension, and agitation, since Ritalin may aggravate these symptoms. Also contraindicated in patients known to be hypersensitive to the drug and in patients with glaucoma.

WARNINGS

Ritalin should not be used in children under six years, since safety and efficacy in this age group have not been established.

Sufficient data on safety and efficacy of long-term use of Ritalin in children with minimal brain dysfunction are not yet available. Although a causal relationship has not been established, suppression of growth (*ie,* weight gain and/or height) has been reported with long-term use of stimulants in children. Therefore, children requiring long-term therapy should be carefully monitored.

Ritalin should not be used for severe depression of either exogenous or endogenous origin or for the prevention of normal fatigue states.

Ritalin may lower the convulsive threshold in patients with or without prior seizures; with or without prior EEG abnormalities, even in absence of seizures. Safe concomitant use of anticonvulsants and Ritalin has not been established. If seizures occur, Ritalin should be discontinued.

Use cautiously in patients with hypertension. Blood pressure should be monitored at appropriate intervals in all patients taking Ritalin, especially those with hypertension.

Symptoms of visual disturbances have been encountered in rare cases. Difficulties with accommodation and blurring of vision have been reported.

Drug Interactions

Ritalin may decrease the hypotensive effect of guanethidine. Use cautiously with pressor agents and MAO inhibitors. Ritalin may inhibit the metabolism of coumarin anticoagulants, anticonvulsants (phenobarbital, diphenylhydantoin, primidone), phenylbutazone, and tricyclic antidepressants (imipramine, desipramine). Downward dosage adjustments of these drugs may be required when given concomitantly with Ritalin.

Usage in Pregnancy

Adequate animal reproduction studies to establish safe use of Ritalin during pregnancy have not been conducted. Therefore, until more information is available, Ritalin should not be prescribed for women of childbearing age unless, in the opinion of the physician, the potential benefits outweigh the possible risks.

Drug Dependence

Ritalin should be given cautiously to emotionally unstable patients, such as those with a history of drug dependence or alcoholism, because such patients may increase dosage on their own initiative.

Chronically abusive use can lead to marked tolerance and psychic dependence with varying degrees of abnormal behavior. Frank psychotic episodes can occur, especially with parenteral abuse. Careful supervision is required during drug withdrawal, since severe depression as well as the effects of chronic overactivity can be unmasked. Long-term follow-up may be required because of the patient's basic personality disturbances.

PRECAUTIONS

Patients with an element of agitation may react adversely; discontinue therapy if necessary.

Periodic CBC, differential, and platelet counts are advised during prolonged therapy.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Nervousness and insomnia are the most common adverse reactions but are usually controlled by reducing dosage and omitting the drug in the afternoon or evening. Other reactions include: hypersensitivity (including skin rash, urticaria, fever, arthralgia, exfoliative dermatitis, erythema multiforme with histopathological findings of necrotizing vasculitis, and thrombocytopenic purpura); anorexia; nausea; dizziness; palpitations; headache; dyskinesia; drowsiness; blood pressure and pulse changes, both up and down; tachycardia; angina; cardiac arrhythmia; abdominal pain; weight loss during prolonged therapy. Toxic psychosis has been reported. Although a definite causal relationship has not been established, the following have been reported in patients taking this drug: leukopenia and/or anemia; a few instances of scalp hair loss.

In children, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, weight loss during prolonged therapy, insomnia, and tachycardia may occur more frequently; however, any of the other adverse reactions listed above may also occur.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Children with Minimal Brain Dysfunction (6 years and over).

Start with small doses (*eg,* 5 mg before breakfast and lunch) with gradual increments of 5 to 10 mg weekly. Daily dosage above 60 mg is not recommended. If improvement is not observed after appropriate dosage adjustment over a one-month period, the drug should be discontinued.

If paradoxical aggravation of symptoms or other adverse effects occur, reduce dosage, or, if necessary, discontinue the drug.

Ritalin should be periodically discontinued to assess the child's condition. Improvement may be sustained when the drug is either temporarily or permanently discontinued.

Drug treatment should not and need not be indefinite and usually may be discontinued after puberty.

HOW SUPPLIED

Tablets, 20 mg (peach, scored); bottles of 100 and 1000.

Tablets, 10 mg (pale green, scored); bottles of 100, 500, 1000 and Accu-Pak® blister units of 100.

Tablets, 5 mg (pale yellow); bottles of 100, 500, and 1000.

C76-16 REV. 7/76

Consult complete product literature before prescribing.

CIBA Pharmaceutical Company
Division of CIBA-GEIGY Corporation
Summit, New Jersey 07901

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Ritalin®
(methylphenidate)
Only when medication is indicated

CIBA