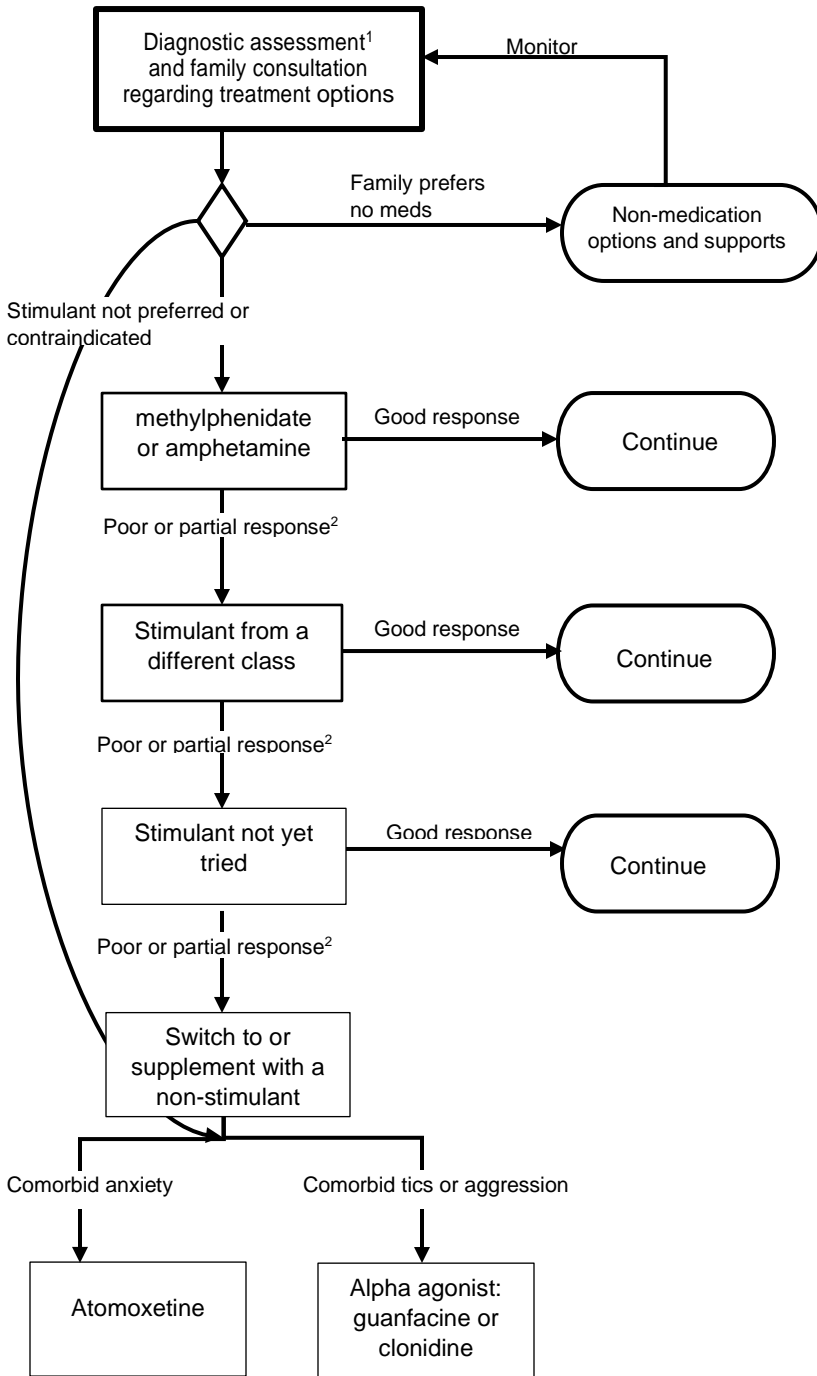


# ADHD Treatment Algorithm



## Factors in selection of stimulant:

- \* prior history of response
- \* desired duration of action
- \* formulation and ability to swallow pill
- \* insurance preferred drug list
- \* provider preference

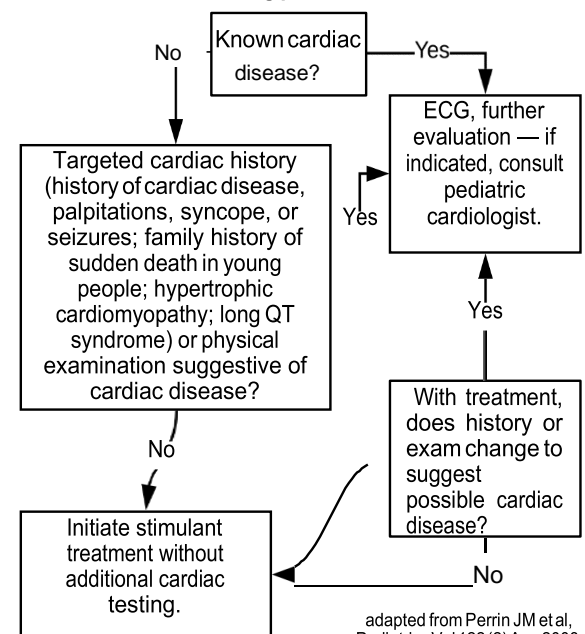
## Dose, duration, and timing:

- \* Short acting stimulants allow best targeting of dose over the day.
- \* Long acting stimulants offer more convenience.
- \* If duration of action of dose is not that expected, increase dose.
- \* If duration is that expected but not long enough to meet needs, add a supplemental dose later in day.

## Responding to common side effects of stimulants

- \* **Appetite** suppression: encourage breakfast, serve dinner later, high protein snacks
- \* **Interference with sleep** onset: give earlier in day, use shorter acting formulation, consider add melatonin
- \* **Mood** changes: sad, irritable, emotional: more common in younger pts, may improve in a few weeks; if not, switch
- \* **Stomachaches, headaches**: take with food. Monitor patterns. Switch if needed.
- \* **Tics** or stereotypies: brief trial off stimulant to verify causal relationship. Re-challenge. Switch if needed or consider add alpha-agonist for tics.

## Cardiac screening prior to ADHD treatment



adapted from Perrin JM et al, Pediatrics Vol 122(2) Aug 2008

<sup>1</sup>Diagnostic evaluation and response to treatment should include ratingscales from parents and teachers

<sup>2</sup>Assessment of response should include assessment of adherence

Adapted from Pliszka SR. et al. J Amer Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2006.