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| **What is ADD?**  ADD stands for Attention Deficit Disorder and it is quickly infecting the children of America; or at least that is what one could easily assume from the current craze to medicate this problem. The search for a drug that would control hyperactive children with behavior problems is, in retrospect, a new idea. It first began in the 1920s, with the first drug trials in the 1930s. In the article "The Behavior of Children Receiving Benzedrine" published in the American Journal of Psychiatry (1937), Charles Bradley wrote:  "Possibly the most striking change in behavior during the week of Benzedrine therapy occurred in the school activities of many of these patients... There appeared a definite 'drive' to accomplish as much as possible during the school period, and often to spend extra time completing additional work. Speed of comprehension and accuracy of performance were increased in most cases... It appeared promptly on the first day Benzedrine was given and disappeared on the first day it was discontinued."  The idea of turning unruly kids into studious students delighted parents and teachers alike, and triggered the new craze of searching for this miracle drug. Their prayers were answered in the 1950s when the FDA started approving such stimulants as Dexedrine and Ritalin to be used to settle down obnoxious children. However, popularity of these new drugs also brought along with them the general conception that if your child was not well- mannered and did not thoroughly enjoy school, something must be medically wrong with them. And if the answer is a drug, then the "problem" at hand must be a disease.  The symptoms of ADD include some or all of the following:  - Attention Disorder  -Oppositional Defiant Disorder/ Conduct Disorder  -Anxiety and/ or Depression  -Impulse Control Problem: Anger Aggression  -Family Dysfunction  -Problematic Peer Interactions  -Problematic School Functioning/ Failure in School  With these warning signs of ADD it is easy to see why so many parents feel that their children may be in need of professional help. However, according to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), only 3- 5 % of all children should really be diagnosed with ADD or its subset ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). In America, though, about 2 million children take some sort of medication for ADD; with 2 to 3 times more occurrences in boys than in girls. With all these cases of ADD, there are as many as 22 different drugs being used to treat it, according to an article in Advance magazine. This report suggests that there is little information of these various drugs, and therefore one does not know what is truly best for individual cases.  A lot of evidence can be found that medication can improve several important areas of function in children with ADD symptoms. These include:  - Behavior and adjustment in the classroom and at home  - Academic performance and learning  - Self- confidence and self- esteem  - Mood problems such as anxiety  - Social functioning  There have been over 150 controlled studies that have shown a positive result from the use of drugs to treat ADD. As well, there are also doctors like Dr. Edward Hallowell, who uses medications to treat his own ADD, and believes that medication is  "a good- news diagnosis because there's a lot of positive treatment available. The great tragedy is when this is undiagnosed. That's where the real pain occurs."    ([Intro1](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html))([Intro2](http://docs.google.com/intro2.html))([Intro3](http://docs.google.com/intro3.html))([Intro4](http://docs.google.com/intro4.html))  [[Home](http://docs.google.com/home.html)][[Introduction](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html)][[Hypothesis](http://docs.google.com/hypothesis.html)][[Procedure](http://docs.google.com/procedure.html)][[Data](http://docs.google.com/data.html)][[Conclusions](http://docs.google.com/conclusions.html)][[Bilio/Links](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html)]  [[2002 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2002/index.html)][[2001 Projects](http://docs.google.com/index.html)][[2000 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2000/index.html)][[1999 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP99/index.html)][[1998 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP98/index.html)] |