## Brain Enhancing Drugs: Basic Information





### **About Brain Enhancing Drugs**

 Brain enhancing drugs are also called nootropic, cognitive enhancers, or smart drugs.

 People use them in an attempt to increase mental alertness and improve memory.

 They also help boost concentration, focus, motivation, and wakefulness.



#### **Other Names**

- Nootropics
- Smart Drugs
- Brain Boosters
- Memory Boosters
- Neuroenhancers
- Drive Drugs
- Study Drugs
- Pharmacological Cognitive Enhancers



#### **Off-Label Use**

 Most healthy people use brain enhancing drugs to improve their cognitive performance.

 Off-label use of smart drugs improves a person's cognitive processes and performance.

 While brain enhancing drugs may help mask fatigue, they do not make people more intelligent.



### **How Do They Work?**

- It is still unclear how exactly brain enhancing drugs work to stimulate the mind.
- However, research indicates that they may act on certain brain chemicals, aka neurotransmitters.
- One explanation is that brain enhancing drugs may increase the secretion of certain neurotransmitters.
- These neurotransmitters include dopamine, serotonin, GABA, adrenaline, orexin, among others.

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### Types of Brain Enhancing Drugs #1 Eugeroics

 Eugeroics are a class of drugs that promote wakefulness and mental alertness.

The most commonly used eugeroics are modafinil and armodafinil.

 The FDA approved modafinil and armodafinil to treat narcolepsy, obstructive sleep apnea, and shift work sleep disorder.



### **Types of Brain Enhancing Drugs #2 ADHD Medications**

- Ritalin and Adderall are the common medicines used for ADHD.
- They treat ADHD symptoms such as restlessness, impulsive behavior and inattentiveness.
- They also treat chronic fatigue, depression, and psychosis associated with depression.
- Research has shown that these are safe and effective brain enhancing drugs.
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### **Types of Brain Enhancing Drugs #3 Nootropic Supplements**

• B vitamins, fish oil, and herbal supplements containing Gingko Biloba and Bacopa monnieri may boost cognitive performance.

 The benefits may not be as immediate but the effects of these <u>brain</u> <u>enhancing drugs</u> are reportedly much longer-lasting.

 However, the FDA does not promote these products, as they have not been examined in terms of safety and efficacy.



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Website: https://www.medexpressrx.com/



• Toll-free No. : USA- 800-808-3375, UK- 808-101-3442, Aus.- 800-706-529



• Email : customersupport@medexpressrx.com



# Thank you!

