

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF ADHD*

Inattention

- Lacks attention to details
- Makes careless mistakes
- Is easily distracted
- Does not seem to listen
- Has difficulty organizing tasks
- Avoids complicated tasks
- Loses things

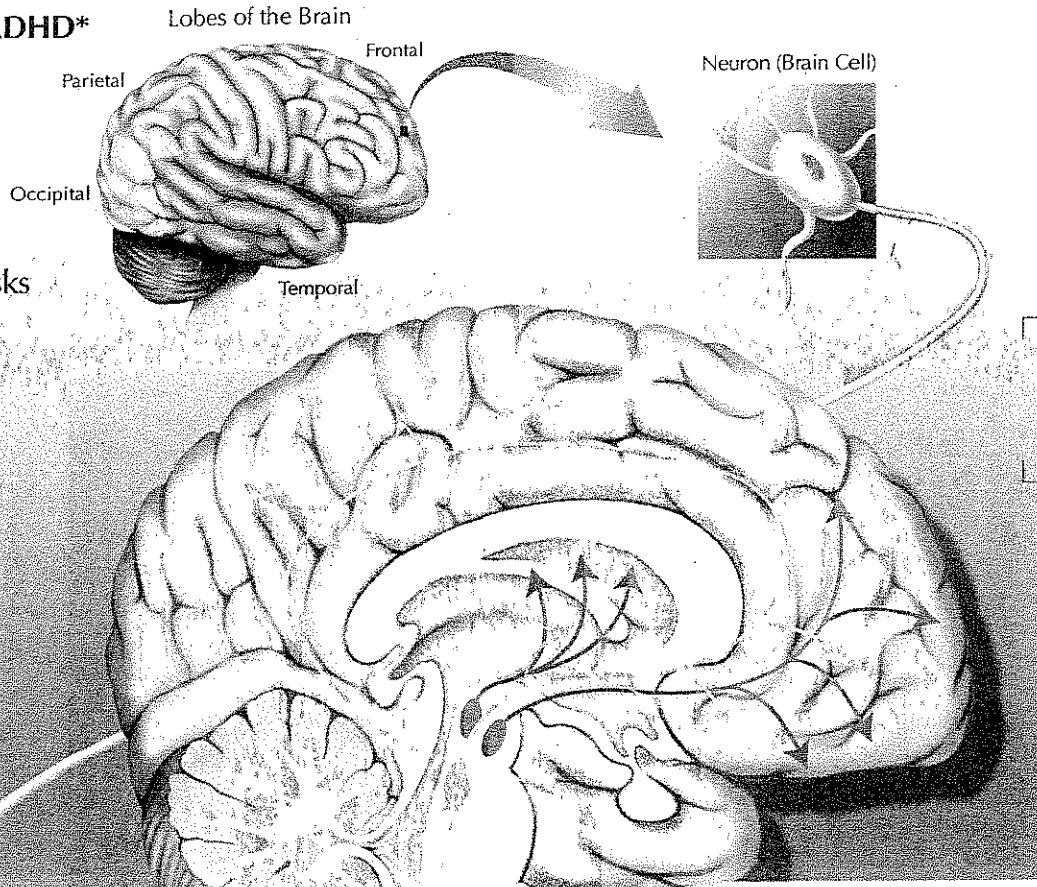
Hyperactivity

- Often fidgets or squirms
- Cannot sit still
- Runs/climbs excessively
- Talks excessively

Impulsivity

- Blurts out answers
- Has difficulty awaiting turn
- Interrupts or intrudes on others

*Refer to DSM-IV diagnostic criteria



Brain cells release chemical messengers (neurotransmitters) that help facilitate brain function such as attention and impulse control.

Pre-synaptic neuron releases neurotransmitters

- Dopamine Pathways
- Norepinephrine Pathways

In ADHD, these neurotransmitters are recycled too soon to facilitate attention and impulse control.

Medication (🔑) used to slow down the recycling of neurotransmitters may help neurons (brain cells) function properly.

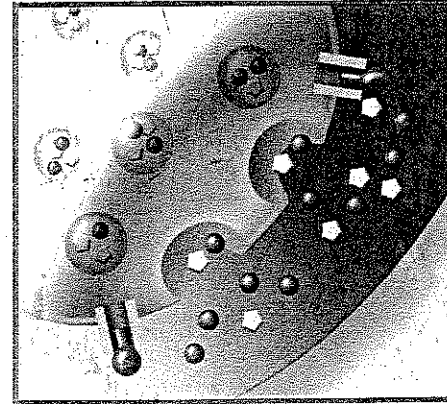
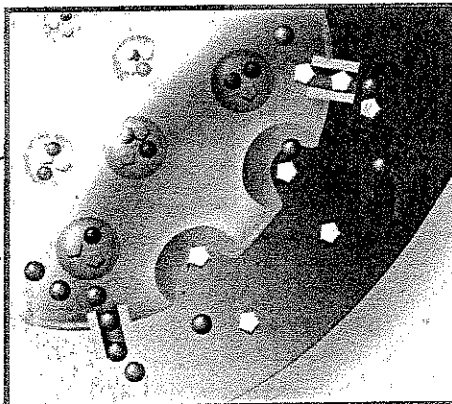
Dopamine

- Enhances signals
- Improves attention, focus, and other cognitive functions

Norepinephrine

- Dampens "noise"
- Decreases distractibility
- Increases inhibition

Post-synaptic neuron receives neurotransmitters



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