

DRUG PROFILE**MEDICATIONS FOR 'DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN'*****Jeerson C Unni**

Abstract: *Pharmacotherapy should be very judiciously used in children with special needs. In most conditions, medications are used to control a co-morbid condition that impacts (in some way) the quality of life of the child. Occasionally, differently abled children are medicated to aid therapy. Very rarely is medication a 'cure' for the disorder the child is suffering from. Understanding the role of evidence-based pharmacotherapy is essential for developmental pediatricians, pediatricians, general practitioners, nurses and therapists caring for children with developmental disorders.*

Keywords: *Special needs, Medication, Developmental disorders, Pharmacotherapy.*

Points to Remember

- *A doctor caring for differently abled children must have a thorough understanding of the medications and their potential effects and prescribe only what is absolutely essential.*
- *Medications cannot replace comprehensive multimodal therapy, which is essential for addressing the complex needs of such children.*
- *It is important to counsel the parents and entire household along with the child as regards to the goals of therapy, what to expect and the need for regular follow up.*
- *Medications should be started only if the family, including the child (if an adolescent), are willing for a trial of medication.*
- *Starting at a low dose and gradually increasing the dose, according to response, would reduce the side effects of the medication.*

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