

Prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorders in primary schoolchildren in Shebin-El-Kom

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Attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder is the most commonly diagnosed neuro-behavioral disorder in children and adolescents. Although originally thought to remit during childhood, the symptoms of ADHD have also been shown to persist in patients through adulthood and adulthood. To assess prevalence and identify subtypes and risk factors of ADHD among primary school children in Shebin El- Kom 1000 school children (563 boys and 437 girls) in the primary schools in Shebin El-Kom were examined, to identify risk factors for developing ADHD. A control group of 20 school children (who are free of ADHD). All students were subjected to Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, and children who scored 80 and more were included and subjected to: Child Behavior Checklist, Conner's Teacher Rating Scale-Revised. Children who were diagnosed as ADHD were subjected to: MINI International' Neuropsychiatric Interview for Children, Conner's Parent Rating Scale-revised, The Children's Sleep Habits Questionnaire. Socioeconomic Status. Assessment of serum Magnesium, Iron and Zinc and lastly Electroencephalogram. The prevalence rate of ADHD in the primary schools children in Shebin-EL Kom was 5.1%. The most prevalent subtype was the (combined subtype). ADHD was more in boys than in girls 4.1 :1. The prevalence of ADHD was higher in urban areas (6.3 %) than in rural areas (4.04%). Psychiatric co-morbidities were encountered in more than half of the sample 56.9%. The co-morbidity of ADHD with oppositional defiant disorder and conduct disorder were higher in hyperactive subtype, while anxiety and depression were more in the inattentive subtype. There were decrease in the serum Iron, Magnesium, and Zinc in ADHD children. ADHD is a common psychiatric disorder in Egyptian primary schools children in Shebin-EL Kom. It affects more boys than girls. The combined subtype is the most prevalent subtype. The affected children showed decrease in the serum Iron, Magnesium, Zinc and abnormal EEG and sleep disturbances. These data indicates that the size of the problem in el-Menoufeya governorate should not be ignored special awareness programs should be considered for teachers and parents together with the for special child psychiatry clinic where behavioral programs especially designed for these children is for sure needed.