

Does gender affect the clinical picture and co-morbidity of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder? : The result of a clinic-referred study

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Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) affects both genders with a preponderance to affect more males during the childhood period, male: female ratio ranges from 3-10:1. Studies have shown that girls with ADHD may have different clinical picture and comorbidity profile compared to boys. We assessed 32 male and 28 female ADHD children regarding their age of onset, duration of ADHD, cognitive abilities using the Stanford-Binet test of intelligence, we compared the presenting symptoms, type of ADHD, type of comorbidity using the K-SADS-PL, clinical profile of ADHD at home and school using the Conners' rating scales revised long version, presence of internalizing and externalizing symptoms using the child behavior checklist. Our results showed no difference among ADHD girls and boys regarding the type of ADHD, yet boys had significantly more complaints of hyperactivity ($p < 0.05$), and significant co morbidity with oppositional defiant disorder whereas girls had significantly more comorbid separation anxiety disorder ($p < 0.05$). Girls had significantly higher symptoms of inattention and performed better in school setting than boys. There was no difference in internalizing and externalizing symptoms across genders. We conclude that there are differences impacted by influence of gender on the co morbidity and clinical profile of ADHD, which although subtle yet need to be elaborately studied for better detection and targeting of treatment and consequently better outcome for ADHD symptoms.