ADHD in the College Setting - Current Perceptions and Future Vision

Mark Thomas; Anthony Rostain; Regina Corso; Thomas Babcock; Manisha Madhoo

Journal of Attention Disorders April 17, 2014
DOI: 1087054714527789

Objective: To assess perceptions concerning ADHD among U.S. college healthcare providers.

Method: A 37-question survey was conducted from October 4 to December 2, 2010. Participants were contacted via mail or telephone and compensated for participation.

Results: Thirty-eight percent of the respondents (physicians, n = 59; nurses, n = 138; directors, n = 101) viewed ADHD as a “problem”/“very much a problem” at their institution. Referrals for evaluation came from students (84%), psychologists/counselors (68%), or the institution (68%). Although 48% of respondents felt “comfortable”/“very comfortable” in their ability to recognize ADHD, 92% referred students for evaluation. Most respondents (>90%) agreed medication use may be warranted; 52% of respondents who treat ADHD or consult with a specialist (from 95% of physicians to 31% of directors) prescribed pharmacotherapy.

Conclusion: Although college healthcare providers recognize the importance of treating ADHD, their discomfort in diagnosing and treating ADHD represents a barrier to care for college students.