Abstract

- The diagnosis of ADHD may be considered if a child is hyperactive, impulsive or inattentive, and if this behaviour results in evidently impaired functioning in multiple settings.
- Children with behavioural problems and slightly impaired functioning may benefit from patient information, education and parenting advice.
- From the age of 6 years, children can be offered diagnostic testing and professional support within the primary care setting, provided sufficient knowledge and expertise is available and there is collaboration with other health care providers.
- Management of a child with ADHD but no comorbid psychiatric disorder, consists of a step-by-step plan including education, parent and teacher guidance and, optionally, behavioural therapy for the child.
- In consultation with parents, child and other therapists, methylphenidate can be prescribed if behavioural interventions are not sufficiently effective.
- Children taking medication for ADHD should be monitored periodically, including assessment of the effectiveness and side effects.