Correlates of Anxiety in 6- to 8-Year-Old Children With ADHD - A Community-Based Study

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Abstract

Objective:
The aim of this study was to identify the child and parent/family correlates of anxiety in a community-based sample of children with ADHD.

Method:
Children (6-8 years) with ADHD (n = 179) and controls (n = 212) were assessed for ADHD and anxiety using the Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children IV. Potential child and parent/family correlates were measured through direct assessments, and parent- and teacher-reported questionnaires. Associations were examined using univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses.

Results:
One in four children with ADHD (n = 44) met criteria for an anxiety disorder, compared with one in 20 controls (n = 10). Anxiety was common in both boys and girls with ADHD. The strongest correlates of anxiety in multivariate analyses were ADHD subtype, primary caregiver psychosocial distress, and neighborhood socioeconomic disadvantage.

Conclusion:
Anxiety is common in children with ADHD. This study provides insight into the potential parent/family stressors that may increase risk for anxiety in children with ADHD.