The Effect of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder of Parents and Adolescents on Attachment Patterns of the Adolescents

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Abstract

Objectives:
The aim of this study was to explore the attachment patterns of adolescents with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and the effect of the presence of ADHD in their parents on the attachment patterns of adolescents with ADHD.

Materials and Methods:
30 adolescents diagnosed with ADHD and their parents were included in the research and 30 healthy adolescents and their parents were included in the control group. The participating adolescents were aged 12-17. The adolescents in both the ADHD group and the control group were given sociodemographic data form and the Relationship Scales Questionnaire (RSQ) as well as the Schedule for affective disorders and schizophrenia for school-age children – present and lifetime version (K-SADS-PL) and the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-R). In order to examine the ADHD symptoms of the parents of the adolescents included in the study, the Wender Utah Rating Scale (WURS) and the Adult Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Self-report Scale (ASRS) were utilized.

Results:
As a result of the research, the mean A-RSQ scores of our subjects revealed no significant difference between the ADHD and the control groups in any attachment type. It was determined that the dismissing attachment patterns scores of those adolescents whose parents had ADHD were significantly high.

Conclusion:
The attachment patterns of adolescents with ADHD and healthy adolescents were observed to be similar. Furthermore, we found that those adolescents with ADHD whose parents also had ADHD show dismissing attachment pattern.