Sleep disorder investigation might be considered to be mandatory in attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder guideline.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE:
To determine the prevalence of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) in children with attention deficit/hyperactive disorder (ADHD) and compare amplitude and latency of the P300 potential among children with and without OSA.

METHOD:
Sixty-one children with ADHD underwent oddball auditory attention tests for detection of P300 (ERPs) followed by an all-night polysomnography. The children were divided in two groups, those with and without OSA.

RESULTS:
Significant decreased amplitude of the P300 potential was observed in children with OSA when compared with children without OSA.

CONCLUSION:
The study showed that sleep fragmentation as a result of OSA can exacerbate the attention disorder that characterizes ADHD, and highlights the importance of assessing the presence of OSA in the differential diagnosis of children with attention deficits.