Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: Strategies for Management in Dental Office

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Abstract

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a chronic bio-behavioural disorder of childhood which can continue into adolescence and adulthood. Hyperactivity, impulsivity, and/or inattention are the distinguishing behaviour characteristics of this disorder. Learning problems, poor peer relations and low self-esteem are also frequently encountered. The American Academy of Paediatrics has provided clinical practice guidelines on the assessment and diagnosis of school aged children with ADHD. Paediatric dentists must be familiar with the disorder in order to make the necessary modifications in the dental treatment plan. Appointment scheduling and nonpharmacological techniques like “time outs,” positive reinforcement and tell-show-do should be given special consideration during behaviour management. This article presents an overview of the clinical manifestations of ADHD and management of these children in dental office.