Clinical Practice Guidelines for Major Comorbid Disorders with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Gi Jung Hyun, Bongseog Kim, Bung-Nyun Kim, Johanna Inhyang Kim, Jeong Ha Park, Geon Ho Bahn, Moon-Soo Lee, Soyoung Irene Lee, Young Sik Lee, Doug Hyun Han


Abstract

Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) occurs with a high prevalence of comorbid disorders, and these comorbid disorders can affect assessment, clinical symptoms, prognosis, and treatment strategies for children with ADHD. The goal of this study was to develop a clinical practice guideline for ADHD and its specific comorbid disorders. Due to limited numbers of previous clinical studies, current recommendations are based on literature review and expert consensus among Korean child and adolescent psychiatrists. We suggest the use of multidisciplinary evaluations, interview techniques, and assessment tools in order to differentiate major comorbid disorders from ADHD. Specific ADHD comorbid disorders (e.g., medical comorbidity, oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, anxiety disorder, specific learning disorder, tic disorder, and substance use disorder) have suggested treatment protocols that include pharmacological and behavioral treatments. Children and adolescents with ADHD may have comorbid disorders. The use of current clinical practice guidelines will be helpful when treating ADHD children with comorbid disorders.