Controlling attention to gaze and arrows in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

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Psychiatry Research, Volume 251, May 2017, Pages 148-154
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.01.094.

Abstract

The aim of this research was to assess implicit processing of social and non-social distracting cues in children with ADHD. Young people with ADHD and matched controls were asked to classify target words (LEFT/RIGHT) which were accompanied by a distracter eye-gaze or arrow. Typically developing participants showed evidence of interference effects from both eye-gaze and arrow distracters. In contrast, the ADHD group showed evidence of interference effects from arrow but failed to show interference from eye-gaze. This absence of interference effects from eye-gaze observed in the participants with ADHD may reflect an attentional impairment in attending to socially relevant information.