Comparison between the diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder with the DSM-5 and neuropsychological evaluation of the executive functions

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Abstract

INTRODUCTION:
The attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has a prevalence of 3-7% in scholar population and it is associated with learning disabilities and executive dysfunctions.

AIM:
To study the relationship between the ADHD diagnostic through DSM-5 criteria and the neuropsychology evaluation of executive functions.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS:
The sample of this study consisted of 50 subjects, 12 females and 38 males, with an age between 8 and 10 years old. To evaluate the inhibitory control, we used the Stroop Test and the Continuous Performance Test (CPT), to evaluate intelligence and working memory we use the Wechsler Intelligence Scale WISC-IV, to evaluate attention we used the CPT and Selective Attention Test.

RESULTS:
There weren't significant differences between both subtypes of ADHD regarding working memory, on the other hand, the female group had better abilities in cognitive flexibility task than males and subjects diagnosed with combined ADHD had more difficulties in inhibitory control.

CONCLUSIONS:
We can confirm that the definition of ADHD in DSM-5 isn't enough as they are imprecise. Therefore, the disease definition it's performed by a specific evaluation of attention and inhibitory control mechanisms and its necessary a neuropsychological evaluation of these brain functions.