The Natural Course and Treatment of ADHD, and Its Place in Adulthood

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The care of children, adolescents, and adults with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has repeatedly been the subject of criticism, guidelines, and key issues papers (1). These agree that further research is urgently needed into the causes of ADHD, ADHD progression, and the effects of prevention and of pharmaco- and psychotherapy, both in children and adolescents and in adults. The article by Banaschewski et al. in this issue of Deutsches Ärzteblatt International (2) provides an overview of the current knowledge concerning the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of ADHD. It is clear that there will be no litmus test for ADHD in the near future. It must therefore still be assumed that its causes are multifactorial, and that diagnosis must be comprehensive and painstaking. This fact must be highlighted again and again.

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