The prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and the frequency of medication use among preschool children in a district children hospital.

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Abstract:

INTRODUCTION: This study analyzed the prevalence of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and frequency of medication use among preschool children in a district children hospital between January 1 and December 31, 2016.

METHODS: We reviewed the medical files of children who admitted to Child and Adolescent Psychiatry outpatient clinic, in the age range of 36 to 60 months, diagnosed with preschool ADHD (PS-ADHD) according to ICD-10 criteria. Children with comorbid intellectual disability, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, autism spectrum disorders and chronic medical disorders were excluded. Medical files with incomplete data were removed.

RESULTS: The study sample consisted of 218 preschool children with ADHD. The prevalence of ADHD among preschool children was 7.8%. Sixty-one (28%) of children had at least one comorbid disorder and the disruptive behavior disorders (Oppositional defiant and conduct disorder) were the most common diagnose with the percentage of 32.1%. Psychosocial interventions treatment was applied to 116 (53.2%) children, whereas 102 (46.8%) children were started on pharmacotherapy. Risperidone was the most prescribed medication with the percentage of 98%. Children in the age group of 49-60 months had more comorbidity and drug use compared to 36-48 months group. The higher number of comorbid disorders was the predictor of drug use (p<0.05).

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: Even though psychosocial treatment is the first-line of the treatment, additional pharmacotherapy seems to be required. The first choice of pharmacotherapy is Risperidone. Older age and more comorbidity seems to predict the drug use.