A twin study of genetic and environmental influences on relationship between attention deficit and anxiety/depression in children and adolescents

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Objective:
To understand the genetic and environmental influences on the relationship between attention deficit and anxiety/depression in children and adolescents.

Methods:
A total of 1,062 same-sex twins aged 6-18 years were included in this study. A parent-rated child behavior checklist (CBCL) was used in the assessment. Software Mx was used to fit the univariate model of structural equation. The relationship between attention deficit and anxiety/depression was analyzed through bivariate genetic modeling.

Results:
The genetic factor had influence on the relationship between attention deficit and anxiety/depression ($r(g)=0.48$). Shared and non-shared environmental correlation scores of attention deficit and anxiety/depression were 0.86 and 0.14 respectively.

Conclusion:
Common genetic and shared environmental influences can explain the relationship between attention deficit and anxiety/depression in children and adolescents.