Autoimmunity as a Risk Factor for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

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We continue to learn about the relationships among the brain, the immune system, and human behaviour at a rapid pace. These interactions take multiple forms. Brain-based immune cells termed microglia, for example, play a critical role in neuronal pruning, a process that may be disrupted in patients with schizophrenia.1 Overproduction of inflammatory cytokines from activated immune cells are hypothesised to have an impact on the aetiology of mood and depressive disorders.2 Still other processes involve a direct assault on neurons from autoimmune antibodies, producing disorders collectively termed autoimmune encephalitis, the symptoms of which may mimic the movement and psychotic disorders in children.