Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Adults: Changes in Diagnostic Criteria in DSM-5

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Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a common and disabling disorder. Although its symptoms were described in children more than 100 years ago, its adult form has only recently received appropriate clinical attention. We now know that most children who develop symptoms of ADHD in childhood continue to manifest them past adolescence and into adulthood and that these symptoms can negatively impact their personal, social, and occupational functioning. In this article, we focus on the evolution of the diagnostic criteria of ADHD over the years, including the latest iteration in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), fifth edition. Although DSM-5 has attempted to make the diagnosis of ADHD simpler in adults, some concerns remain, so this illness will need continued attention from both clinicians and researchers in the years to come.