A 10-year-old boy is restless at school and often disturbs the rest of the class. His mother is concerned that his restlessness interferes with his activities outside school. He is diagnosed with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) by a pediatrician and starts treatment with methylphenidate. The boy’s mother is worried because the drug is a stimulant and she fears her son might become addicted to it.

People with ADHD display developmentally inappropriate levels of inattentiveness and impulse control and can have difficulty moderating activity. Some 5% of people are thought to be affected by the disorder.

[...]