Predictors of Quality of Life and Symptom Severity in Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

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Abstract

Introduction:
ADHD is a major reason for the referral of children and adolescents to health care services due to the multidimensional nature of the impairment experienced by patients with this disorder. As such, the aim of this study was to determine whether neuropsychological and academic performance act as significant predictors of symptom intensity and quality of life in children and adolescents with ADHD.

Method:
The sample consisted of 96 children/adolescents with a diagnosis of ADHD, aged between 6 and 16 years (mean = 10.23; SD = 2.37). Symptom intensity was assessed using the SNAP-IV. The APT was used to evaluate school performance. Neuropsychological assessments were obtained using the WISCIII. Quality of life was determined using the Peds-QL 4.0. Results were examined using correlation analysis and general linear models (GLMs).

Results:
Univariate analyses revealed a significant influence of gender on the severity of inattention and hyperactivity symptoms, as well as physical QoL. Age only influenced the severity of inattention symptoms and the social domain of QoL. The school domain of QoL was predicted by writing, arithmetic, reading and total scores on the APT. Multivariate analyses revealed a significant impact of neuropsychological performance on symptom severity and social quality of life. Academic performance predicted scores on the physical, emotional and social domains of QoL.

Discussion:
The variables examined in the present study were significant predictors of inattention and hyperactivity symptoms in children and adolescents with ADHD.