Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder symptoms in patients with cystic fibrosis.


Abstract

BACKGROUND:
Cystic fibrosis (CF) is a chronic life-threatening disease. In patients who suffer from chronic disease, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is associated with functional impairment that can affect adherence to treatment and consequently influence prognosis.

METHODS:
CF patients filled in the ADHD Rating Scale (ADHD-RS) adapted to the DSM5 and were assessed on a continuous performance task (MOXO-CPT), a standardized-computerized test designed to evaluate several domains of attention.

RESULTS:
Of the 175 patients (99 males), 18% presented ADHD symptoms, according to ADHD-RS; 16% in the younger group (<18 years), and 18.9% in the adult group. The male to female ratio was 3:1 in children and 1:1 in adults.

CONCLUSIONS:
The occurrence of ADHD symptoms in patients with CF is substantially higher than in the general population and should be recognized as a co-morbidity of CF. As ADHD can impair adherence to therapy, further research is needed to investigate the effect of ADHD therapy on adherence.