Risk of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Children with Atopic Dermatitis.

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Abstract

Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a common, chronic, inflammatory, pruritic skin disorder that affects up to 20% of the children in Western countries. Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has been reported to be more frequent in children with AD. The purpose of this study was to explore the risk for ADHD in our population of patients with AD. A population-based case-control study, using the medical database of Clalit Health Services (CHS), the largest healthcare provider organization in Israel. The study included 840 patients with AD between the age of 0-18 years and 900 age and gender frequency-matched patients without AD. The proportion of ADHD in patients with AD was 7.1% as compared to 4.1% in controls. ADHD was more frequent in boys with AD (9.6% vs. 5.2%, odds ratio (OR) 1.9, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.1-3.2) but not in girls with AD (4.6% vs. 2.9% OR 1.5). In multivariate analyses, AD was associated with ADHD (OR 2.1, 95% CI 1.3-3.4). The current study demonstrated an association between AD and ADHD. This report and earlier observations emphasize the need for detection and treatment of ADHD in atopic patients.