

Temperament in Adulthood Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder without Bipolar Disorder.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE:

We examined whether some temperamental traits would be associated with persistence of attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adulthood independent from bipolar disorder (BD).

METHODS:

Eighty-one ADHD patients without a comorbid diagnosis of BD were divided into two groups, those with childhood ADHD (n=46), and those with Adulthood ADHD (n=35). The severity of childhood and adulthood ADHD were assessed by using the Wender Utah Rating Scale (WURS-25) and Turgay's Adult ADD/ADHD Diagnosis and Evaluation Scale (DES). Subjects' temperamental characteristics were examined using the Temperament Evaluation of Memphis, Pisa, Paris and San Diego-auto questionnaire (TEMPS-A).

RESULTS:

The mean scores of WURS-25 were higher in adult ADHD group than in childhood ADHD group ($p < 0.001$). Adult ADHD group had significantly higher scores on cyclothymic ($p = 0.002$), irritable ($p < 0.0001$), and anxious ($p = 0.042$) subscales of TEMPS-A. The scores of WURS-25 in adulthood ADHD group were positively correlated with cyclothymia scores ($r = 0.366$, $p = 0.033$). Total scores of Turgay's Adult ADD/ADHD DES were positively correlated with cyclothymic ($r = 0.354$, $p = 0.040$), hyperthymic ($r = 0.380$, $p = 0.026$), and irritable ($r = 0.380$, $p = 0.026$) subscale scores. Cyclothymic and irritable temperaments were significantly associated with the severity of adulthood symptoms of ADHD.

CONCLUSION:

We might suggest that cyclothymic and irritable temperaments would predict the diagnosis of adulthood ADHD independent from BD.