ADHD in adult psychiatry: Data on 12-month prevalence, risk factors and comorbidity.

Miesch M, Deister A.


Abstract

AIMS AND METHODS:
To examine the 12-month prevalence, risk factors, and comorbidity of ADHD in a collective of adult psychiatric patients admitted to an open general ward in a psychiatric hospital in Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) over a period of one year (n = 166).

RESULTS:
The 12 months prevalence of ADHD was 59.0 % (severe symptomatology: 33.1 %), high rates of comorbid disorders (92.9 % depression, 5.1 % bipolar disorder, 28.6 % anxiety disorder, 30.6 % emotional unstable (Borderline) personality disorder, 31.6 % avoidant personality disorder, 18.4 % dependent personality disorder, 25.5 % combined personality disorder, 10.2 % obsessive-compulsive personality disorder, 26.5 % PTSD, 25.5 % restless legs syndrome, 24.5 % adiposity, 11.2 % eating disorder, 45.9 % learning difficulty, 51.0 % nicotine dependency, 4.1 % alcohol dependency, 7.1 % illegal substance dependency), risk factors for ADHD, a high genetic risk (72.4 %) and problems in psychosocial functioning.

CONCLUSIONS:
Because of the high prevalence of ADHD in hospitalized psychiatric patients, it is mandatory to examine these for the presence of ADHD using questionnaires and identify comorbid diseases.