

Lifetime Victimization in Children and Adolescents With ADHD.

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J Interpers Violence. 2018 Apr 1;886260518771680.

doi: 10.1177/0886260518771680.

Abstract

The objective of this study is to describe the frequency and type of victimization in a Spanish child and adolescent clinical ADHD sample and to analyze the association between the types of victimization and the severity of the symptoms. The sample is composed of 106 outpatients in treatment for ADHD, according to Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4th ed.; DSM-IV) criteria. Symptom severity was measured by the Conners-3 scales. ADHD and comorbid diagnostics were evaluated with the Mini-Kid interview. The victimization experiences were studied using the Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ). Children with child maltreatment history showed a greater intensity of hyperactivity/impulsivity, aggression and behavioral disorders as well as depression and anxiety disorders. The presence of peer victimization was associated with inattention, learning disorders, executive functioning, and relationship problems. Episodes of victimization should be considered in the treatment of the ADHD. Child maltreatment history is more associated with hyperactivity-impulsivity symptoms, while peer victimization is more associated with attentional symptoms.