Demographic and Clinical Predictors of Hospitalization in Preschoolers With ADHD.


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Abstract

OBJECTIVE:
This chart review study characterized demographic and clinical indicators of the need for hospitalization in preschoolers with ADHD.

METHOD:
Medical records of preschoolers with Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4th ed., text rev.; DSM-IV-TR) ADHD during 2009-2012 were systematically reviewed. The cohort included 111 children (aged 5.13 ± 0.55 years, 77.47% boys). The demographic and clinical variables of hospitalized at a day-care unit (n = 30) and nonhospitalized (n = 81) preschoolers were compared.

RESULTS:
Hospitalized preschoolers were younger (p < .0001), had higher rates of unmarried mothers (p < .001), and a higher number of comorbidities. The number of inattentive/hyperactivity-impulsivity symptoms was similar in both groups. Neurodevelopmental comorbidity (p < .0001), but not externalized (p = .82) or internalized (p = .20) psychopathology, was significantly higher in the hospitalized group.

CONCLUSION:
ADHD severity in preschoolers tends to be associated with younger age, specific parenthood constellations, and a high rate of neurodevelopmental, but not other, comorbidities. These findings emphasize the importance of the neurodevelopmental context in planning ADHD interventions at preschool age.