Health Behaviors, Physical Health, and Health Care Utilization in Children With ADHD

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE:
To compare health behaviors, physical health outcomes, and health care utilization between children with and without ADHD.

METHOD:
In this cross-sectional study, we obtained data for children with and without ADHD from the Korean National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. To investigate the association between ADHD and health outcomes, we estimated the adjusted prevalence ratios (APRs) in these groups.

RESULTS:
Among 10,838 children aged 7 to 18 years with and without ADHD, those with ADHD had significantly higher APRs for overall health problems, physical illness, and injuries than those without ADHD. Despite having health care needs, children with ADHD were less likely than those without ADHD to use health care services. However, there were no significant associations between most health behaviors and ADHD.

CONCLUSION:
Increased efforts are needed to provide quality health care services to address the medical conditions of children with ADHD and to enhance their health care utilization when needed.