Editorial: Are childhood and adult ADHD the same entities?

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There is a widespread prevailing assumption that attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder with a child onset that persists on through adulthood and is more common in males. For example, a meta-analysis found that severity of childhood ADHD, treatment for childhood ADHD comorbid conduct disorder and comorbid major depressive disorder were predictive of adult ADHD (Caye et al. [1], [2]). Recently, Moffit et al. [3] reported results from the well-known Dunedin study that casts doubts on this axiom. They reported a childhood prevalence of ADHD of 6% with male predominance, comorbid psychiatric disorders, neurocognitive deficits, polygenic risk and adult impairments. They also reported an adult prevalence of 3% associated with substance dependence and the need for psychiatric treatment. All these results were in accordance with prevailing views of this disorder.