

Suicidal ideation in adult ADHD: Gender difference with a specific psychopathological profile

Kakuszi B, Bitter I, Czobor P.

Compr Psychiatry. 2018 Jun 18;85:23-29.
doi: 10.1016/j.comppsy.2018.06.003.

Abstract

OBJECTIVE:

To investigate suicidal ideation (SI) in patients with adult ADHD (aADHD), and its association with gender and psychopathology.

METHODS:

Case-control study with 206 participants (patients = 103/healthy controls = 103; matched on gender, age, and education). SI was assessed by the Beck-I Depression-Inventory. The Conners' Adult ADHD Rating Scale (CAARS) was used to characterize the ADHD symptom-domains.

RESULTS:

Compared to controls, the likelihood of SI was significantly higher in females with ADHD (odds ratio[OR] = 25.0 (95%CI:2.98-200.0); the difference was not significant in males (OR = 2.09 (95%CI:0.75-5.81)). In females, "Problems with Self-Concept" scores on the CAARS showed the closest association with SI (OR = 5.60,95%CI:2.34-13.41]), while in males it was "Impulsivity" scores (OR = 3.01,95%CI:1.50-6.06).

CONCLUSION:

Our findings extend previously described transdiagnostic associations of specific psychopathological risk factors to aADHD, including problems with self-concept and impulsivity, which are robustly associated with suicidality across diagnostic boundaries. In addition, they indicate that these associations exhibit pronounced gender-specificity in aADHD.