Prevalence of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder symptoms in patients with schizophrenia

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE:
To investigate the frequency of childhood and adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) symptoms in a cohort of patients with schizophrenia (SCZ).

METHODS:
A systematic review was conducted to evaluate existing evidence. Two self-report questionnaires were used to investigate adult ADHD and childhood ADHD symptoms in 126 patients with ICD-10 diagnoses of SCZ.

RESULTS:
Five studies were included in the systematic review, with the prevalence of childhood and adult ADHD in SCZ subjects ranging between 17-57% and 10-47% respectively. Within our cohort, 47% of patients reported positive screening for ADHD symptoms either in childhood or adulthood. 23% reported symptomatology consistent with both childhood and adult ADHD.

CONCLUSIONS:
We demonstrate a greater presence of ADHD symptomatology in SCZ compared to that reported for ADHD in the general population. Our findings highlight the importance of improved clinical assessment and treatment considerations in a subgroup of patients with SCZ.