Peer Victimization in Children With ADHD: A Community-Based Longitudinal Study

Efron D, Wijaya M, Hazell P, Sciberras E.


Abstract

OBJECTIVES:
To investigate (a) whether children with ADHD experience higher levels of overt and relational peer victimization (PV) than children without ADHD and (b) child, family, and school predictors of PV in children with ADHD.

METHOD:
173 children with ADHD and 199 non-ADHD controls were recruited through 43 Melbourne schools at mean age 7.3 years. Parent- and teacher-reported PV (Social Experience Questionnaire) data were collected at mean age 8.9 years. Potential child, family, and school predictors of PV were measured at baseline.

RESULTS:
Children with ADHD experienced higher levels of PV than children without ADHD by both parent- and teacher-report. Child predictors accounted for the greatest variance in PV, and the strongest predictors of PV were teacher-reported conduct problems, and medication use.

CONCLUSION:
Children with ADHD are at higher risk of PV compared with non-ADHD controls. Recognizing and addressing PV is important to reduce additional impairment in children with ADHD.