Personality Assessment as Contribution to Diagnostic Differentiation Between ADHD and RAD in Middle Childhood

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Abstract

Personality Assessment as Contribution to Diagnostic Differentiation Between ADHD and RAD in Middle Childhood Early and prolonged social and emotional deprivation can result in symptoms of both ADHD and attachment disorder (RAD). The present study compares children between 7 and 13 years of age diagnosed with either ADHD or RAD, regarding their disorder specific behavior by using the Conners Rating Scale, a RAD screening scale, the overall psychopathology in the CASCAP-D, and the children's personality using the California Child-Q-sort (CCQ). The RAD group showed an increased overall psychopathology score and both increased ADHD and RAD symptomatology. In addition, they also were characterized as lower in self-regulatory personality characteristics (e.g. ego-resiliency). The results suggest that children with a RAD diagnosis do not show two comorbid disorders (RAD plus ADHD) but are characterized by an even more intense deficit of self-regulation in social and emotional contexts, compared to the children of the pure ADHD group. This should be considered in diagnosis and treatment.