INTRODUCTION:
Health-related quality of life perceived by children and teenagers is important to assess the effects of therapeutic intervention.

AIM:
To analyze quality of life, comparing cases of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) treated with methylphenidate, untreated cases and controls.

SUBJECTS AND METHODS:
Sampling of 228 participants between 8 and 14 years-old. Consecutive sampling in ADHD according to DSM-IV criteria (ADHD Rating Scales IV) and random sampling of matched controls by sex and age. Evaluation of quality of life using KIDSCREEN-52 (children version). ANOVA with Bonferroni correction was used.

RESULTS:
There is a moderate significant correlation between greater intensity of ADHD symptoms and worse quality of life, except in the dimension of physical well-being. Cases of untreated ADHD have significantly worse quality of life than controls on psychic well-being, mood, autonomy school environment and social acceptance. Cases of treated ADHD present similar results, except in the school environment and psychological well-being. The cases of ADHD treated only differ significantly from ADHD not treated in having a better school environment.

CONCLUSIONS:
The cases of ADHD present dimensions of KIDSCREEN-52 with worse quality of life than controls and the cases of ADHD treated with methylphenidate only differ significantly from those not treated in presenting better results in the school environment.