
ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER BETWEEN CHILDREN OF TIRANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS – EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA FOR ALBANIAN CHILDREN

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Introduction.

Child psychiatric disorders are common and treatable, but often go undetected and therefore remain untreated (Goodman R., & al. 2000). The mean worldwide prevalence of ADHD is between 5.29% and 7.1% in children and adolescents (<18 years) (Polanczyk G, & al. 2007; Willcutt Eg. 2012). There are a lot of factors that complicate the estimation of the prevalence of ADHD, such as methodological and cultural differences, variability in identification and medical classification systems used for diagnosis. In Albania there are missing data on ADHD.

Aim.

The aim of this study is to provide epidemiological data on ADHD for elementary school children. The abstract presents few data from a larger study on ADHD that is going on in Tirana-Albania.

Method.

DSM-IV ADHD symptom list and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was used as screen in phase one of the study conducted in an elementary school sample of 6- to 12-year-olds.

Results.

The DSM-IV ADHD symptom list showed moderate agreement with SDQ. There was a significant statistical correlation between different socio demographic factors and symptoms identified at children at high risk for ADHD or having ADHD.

Conclusions.

This is the first study investigating ADHD in Tirana – Albania and may serve as a good start in generating evidence based on child/adolescent mental health service. Programs of community screening based on multi-informant could potentially increase the detection of ADHD, thereby improving access to effective treatments.