

Abstract:

Introduction: Recently published reviews and meta-analytic studies have shown increased interest in research of the ADHD and ED comorbidity. We conducted a case-control study (133 ED female patients/93 healthy control), screening for ED among ADHD patients (N=64) and a pilot study of a support group program for adults with ADHD and psychiatric comorbidities.

Methods: Adult and childhood ADHD symptoms were assessed by self-report and other-report versions of a Barkley Adult ADHD questionnaire (BAARS-IV). Patients with ED and ADHD comorbidity underwent a structured interview (DIVA 2) and Integrated Visual and Auditory Performance Tests (IVA Plus) to confirm the ADHD diagnosis. Participants of the pilot program were assessed prior to and after the therapy by the Schwartz Outcome Scale (SOS) and Quality of life (SQUALA) questionnaires.

Results: Using self-report questionnaire of current symptoms 61 (46 %) of ED patients were detected as likely having ADHD compared to 22 (24 %) from a healthy control group, 37 (28 %) of ED patients were identified with the high probability of ADHD diagnose compared to 12 (13 %) from a healthy control group with significant differences. Screening for disordered eating behaviors indicated previously documented higher prevalence of overweight among men with ADHD compared to women. ADHD women with normal weight often suffer from untreated ED. Our findings were implemented into treatment program for ADHD and ED adult patients.

Key Words: ADHD, Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, Comorbidity, Eating disorders