

RISK FACTORS OF ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVE DISORDER 2004

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Abstract

Objective: Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and related disorders affect children's ability to function in school and other environments. Our aim was to find out the risk factors of Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder.

Method: We conducted a case-control study and compared 35 cases of clinically diagnosed ADHD with 70 controls who did not have ADHD. We collected data by approaching patients attending the child psychiatry clinic in the Psychiatry OPD, Medical College, Trivandrum. We used an interview schedule as study tool. Our study period was from 13th October 2007 to 15th December 2007.

Results: By using χ^2 test and Odds ratio we found out whether there is any association between ADHD and the factors which we have taken into consideration. We found that according to χ^2 test and Odds Ratio (OR), the determinants Low birth weight ($p=0.010$, $OR=3.536$), Low Apgar score ($p=0.000$, $OR=6.75$), High bilirubin level at birth ($p=0.021$, $OR=3.852$), Developmental delay ($p=0.023$, $OR=8.903$), Similar illness in siblings ($p=0.004$, $OR=3.258$) are statistically significant. We also found out a moderate association between ADHD and Mental illness in siblings ($p=0.074$, $OR=4.387$), assisted labour and Caesarean Section ($p=0.075$, $OR=2.28$).

Conclusion: From our study, we conclude that ADHD has a strong association with low birth weight, low Apgar score, high bilirubin level at birth, development delay, epilepsy

and family history of ADHD. Our sample size was too small and this may be the reason that many of the risk factors under consideration were not found to be statistically significant.

