

The knowledge and attitude of parents with ADHD children toward attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in Tabriz in 2013

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Introduction: In psychiatric disorders, Attention Deficit - Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common psychiatric diagnosis in children and adolescents. Knowledge and attitude of parents are important factors in the management of ADHD in children. Considering paucity of information about the attitude and knowledge of parents of these children, this study aimed at evaluating the knowledge and attitudes of the parents of children with ADHD regarding this disorder in Tabriz, Iran.

Methods: This is a cross-sectional study which studied 295 parents (146 fathers and 149 mothers) of children and teenagers with ADHD who referred to psychiatric clinics affiliated with Tabriz University of Medical Sciences. The subjects were diagnosed based on Kiddies Schedule for Affective disorders and Schizophrenia for School-Aged Children (K-SADS). Convenient sampling was used in 2013. Having diagnosed the children with ADHD, their parents' knowledge and attitudes towards ADHD children was studied by a researcher-made questionnaire. Data were analyzed by SPSS version 17.

Results: 70 females (23.7%) and 225 boys (76.3%) with ADHD participated in this study. Parent's knowledge was 72.76% in the symptoms aspect, 38.43% in the detection aspect, 62.44% in the etiology aspect, 75.54% in treatment aspect, 55.33% in the later consequences of ADHD aspect, 91.37% in the diagnosis aspect, and 52.25% in the prevalence aspect. 72.82% of parents have the correct attitude about ADHD. Having analyzed the relationship between the knowledge and attitudes of the parents of ADHD children, it was found out that there is positive correlation between parents' attitudes to ADHD and their overall knowledge (identification, etiology, treatment, consequences, and outbreak dimensions), ranging between 0.12 to 0.36 ($p < 0.50$).

Conclusions: General knowledge of parents was 66%. Most knowledge of the parents was in the diagnosis, treatment and symptoms of ADHD. 72.82% of parents have the correct attitude about ADHD. These data provide practical information for parent training.

Keywords: Attention Deficit - Hyperactivity Disorder, Knowledge, Attitude, Parents