

Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Assessment

Individuals with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) exhibit impulsive, unpredictable, and hyperactive behavior. Patients with ADHD can be disruptive, especially in social situations and often have difficulty completing tasks. It is important to note, that failure to complete tasks is not a result of rebellion or disobedience, but rather inattention. Behavioral patterns consistent with an attention deficit and/or hyperactivity disorder will manifest in children by the age of twelve. Typically, ADHD is not identified or diagnosed until the child enters school. In order to meet the criteria for ADHD, the pattern of behavior characteristic of these conditions must be present in two settings, at home and at school.



PLAY PICMONIC

Assessment

Inattention

Inattentive N-not-paying-attention

Difficulty paying attention, or inattention, is a predominant trait in these patients. Individuals with ADHD often have difficulty completing tasks and are easily distracted.

Incomplete Tasks

Incomplete Task-list

Individuals with ADHD have difficulty completing tasks and will often fail to complete chores, homework, or other obligations in the workplace. It is important to note that failure to complete tasks is not a result of rebellion or disobedience, but rather inattention.

Easily Distracted

Easily Distracted by Easy-button

Patients with ADHD have a very limited attention span and are easily distracted from the task at hand.

Hyperactivity

Hyperactive Hiker

Patients with ADHD may display symptoms of hyperactivity. This can include an inability to sit still without fidgeting, excessive talking, and difficulty with tasks involving patience and waiting.

Impulsiveness

Impulsive M-pushing

Individuals with ADHD exhibit impulsive, unpredictable behavior. Impulsivity is especially noticeable when compared to other individuals of the same developmental level.

Disruptive

Disruption-eruption

Patients with ADHD can be disruptive, especially in social situations. For example, a school-aged child may cause disruptions in the classroom, blurt out answers without being called on, or interrupt others before they are finished speaking.

Considerations

Two Areas of Life

Home and School

In order to meet the criteria for ADHD, the pattern of behavior characteristic of these conditions must be present in two settings, at home and at school.

Onset by Age 12

(12) Dozen Egg Carton

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Symptoms > 6 Months

Greater-than Sign with (6) Sax and Month Moon

Patients with ADHD must have displayed relevant symptoms for at least the past 6 months. In addition, the symptoms must not be better explained by a psychotic disorder or mood disorder (such as anxiety or depression), and must be negatively impacting the patient's home or school life.