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.



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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.

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Onset by Age 12

(12) Dozen Egg Carton

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.

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.

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