

Map of the attention deficit hyperactivity disorder prevalence in students from the municipal education system in Limeira-SP.

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Abstract

This research shows the prevalence of ADHD found in the city of Limeira-SP and evaluates the teachers' knowledge on this subject, noting that the diagnosis and incorrect treatments are directly related to the lack of preparation/knowledge among teachers/professionals.

Key words: attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, prevalence, education.

Introduction

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder, with genetic causes, which appears in childhood and commonly accompanies the individual throughout their life. It's characterized by symptoms of inattention, restlessness and impulsivity. Its symptoms usually bring large losses in someone's life, especially when they don't know that they have ADHD. It is the most common disorder in children and adolescents forwarded to specialized services and occurs in 3-5% of children surveyed in various parts of the world. This study is characterized by a cross-sectional observational descriptive research of qualitative approach, which aims to describe the characteristics of a given population or phenomenon.

Results and Discussion

At first, we contacted the education secretary hall of Limeira city to get the authorization to access the schools and after the approval by the Research Ethics Committee (494.774), we initiated the procedures. The project main goal was to show the prevalence of ADHD in municipal schools in the city of Limeira – SP (suspected and diagnosed children with ADHD). As a secondary objective we conducted informative speeches in 6 schools about the disorder, with the application of a questionnaire before the talks, to analyze the teachers' knowledge. The methodology consisted in analyze the numerical data provided by 27 schools (elementary Schools) and also the data obtained through 105 questionnaires (created with questions that could best report the basic knowledge about the related subject). As a result, we saw a percentage below the national average for ADHD in Limeira (0,43%) including the numerical difference between genders, which may be mostly caused by the lack of information among teachers, as analyzed from the questionnaires.

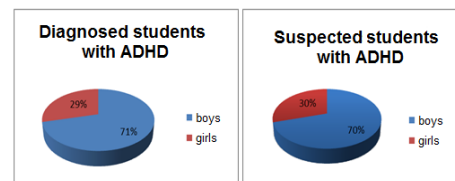


Image 1. Gender of the surveyed students.

The questions included in the questionnaire for teachers were: 1) Have you ever received any specific information about ADHD through lectures, courses ...? 2) Have you ever forwarded a suspect ADHD student to a specialist that could diagnose this student? 3) What are your attitudes towards the student who has learning and / or relationships difficulties, but hasn't a medical diagnosis? 4) What are your attitudes towards the student who is already diagnosed with ADHD done by a specialized doctor? 5) Name three attitudes that can ease the problems caused by the symptoms of ADHD in students within the classroom. Through the questionnaires answers we perceive the incomplete and incorrect information about the subject and the teachers did not answer some questions, showing a lack of knowledge about ADHD, which hampers the way they will handle a student within the school.

Conclusions

We conclude that the lack of information found in the city of Limeira -SP (through the analysis of questionnaires), adversely affects the diagnosis of ADHD, showing a prevalence below average and the numerical difference between genders can happen due to this lack of information.

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