Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD)

Characterized by:
- Impulsivity and deceitfulness
- Disregard for and violation of the rights of others

12-month prevalence rate of ASPD ranges from 0.2% to 3.3%.
- ASPD has been found to be more common in males (1.0%) than in females (0.2%).

Parental ASPD in Families of Children with ADHD

ASPD is among the most frequently researched personality disorder within the ADHD literature.

The risk for ASPD in relatives of individuals with ADHD is higher than individuals without ADHD; however, the relationship has been found to be stronger in individuals with co-occurring ADHD and conduct disorder (CD) or oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) than ADHD alone.

Objective

To examine whether the association between parental ASPD and child ADHD exists in the absence of co-occurring CD/ODD.

Research Questions

1. In families of children with ADHD, what is the prevalence rate of ASPD among: a) parents overall, b) mothers, and c) fathers?
2. Do parents of children with ADHD have increased odds of ASPD compared to parents of children without ADHD?
3. Do parents of children with co-occurring ADHD and CD/ODD have increased odds of having ASPD compared to parents of children with ADHD alone?

Methods

A meta-analysis was conducted

The following databases were searched: PsycINFO, Medline, ERIC, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses, and Google Scholar

Limits: English-language articles
Published or prepared before June 2014

*Search results combined after duplicates removed (n = 3799)*

Articles screened on basis of title and abstract

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n = 142)

Full-text articles excluded, with reasons (n = 126)
- Focus on children of parents with psychopathology (n = 12)
- Full text not available (n = 4)
- Ineligible population (n = 6)
- Ineligible or no measure of paternal depression (n = 66)
- Ineligible or no quantitative comparison between child ADHD and paternal depression (n = 35)
- No measure of child ADHD (n = 11)
- Overlapping sample (n = 2)

Included (n = 16)

Number of participants
- Total (n = 2236)
- Children with ADHD (n = 1185)
- Children without ADHD (n = 962)
- Children with co-occurring ADHD and CD/ODD (n = 89)

16 studies met eligibility criteria
- 12 published reports
- 4 unpublished reports

Year of publication ranged from 1971 to 2013

Each study was coded following a coding manual
- Data was entered and analyzed through the Comprehensive Meta Analysis 3.0 program

Results

1. The prevalence of ASPD in parents of children with ADHD was:
   a) 8.60% overall (95% CI [3.34, 20.39], k = 11)
   b) 3.77% of mothers (95% CI [0.83, 15.52], k = 7)
   c) 6.94% of fathers (95% CI [3.87, 12.16], k = 8).

2. Parents of children with ADHD did not have increased odds of having ASPD compared to parents of children without ADHD [OR = 1.38, 95% CI [0.89, 2.16], p = .152, k = 9].

3. Parents of children with co-occurring ADHD and CD/ODD did not have increased odds of having ASPD than parents of children with ADHD alone [OR = 3.20, 95% CI [0.65, 15.72], p = .152, k = 2].

Discussion

The prevalence of ASPD in parents of children with ADHD was much higher compared to the 12-month prevalence rates in the general population.

In contrast to previous research, rates of ASPD were not significantly higher in parents of children with co-occurring ADHD and CD/ODD than parents of children with ADHD alone.

References

7. Kristene C. Cheung & Jennifer Theule

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