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Monographic 2

ADHD AT PRESENT: CONTROVERSIES, DIVERGENCES AND CONVERGENCES

Alberto Lasa Zulueta*

This paper reviews recent papers by relevant North American authors, showing points of interest and controversy, and different perspectives. With the intention of finding clinical and therapeutic convergence, various aspects related to diagnostic criteria, the nature of underlying or accompanying psychopathology, aetiopathogenic hypotheses and the denomination of the disorder are outlined. The paper finally considers current research and the possible influence it may have on a future clinical and therapeutic multifactorial view. **KEY WORDS:** clinical diversity of ADHD, comorbidity, underlying psychopathology, multifactorial aetiopathogenesis.

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THE "HYPERACTIVE CHILD" AS A SYMPTOM OF A PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL SITUATION: MYTH, REALITY, MEDICALIZATION?

Jorge L. Tizón*

This paper begins with a brief review of the syndrome in the DSM and ICD, and with a reminder of some of the limitations of these classifications. The author then reflects on three concrete aspects of the syndrome: an empirical one, with brief references to genomics and cerebral neurochemistry; a theoretical one, with an insistence on a psychopathological perspective; and a pragmatic one, by revising the treatments proposed for such a syndrome. The paper finally ends with a reflection on the different types of guides or clinical protocols, and on the difficulties to develop guides or alternative clinical protocols to the dominant ones and those progressively imposed by *BigPharma*. **KEY WORDS:** hyperactivity, conduct disorder, amphetamines.

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TREATMENT OF THE HYPERACTIVE CHILD THROUGH THE FAMILY.

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This paper describes a modality of brief family psychotherapy within the public institution which aims to prevent and treat the development of the attention deficit and hyperactivity syndrome (ADHD). A clinical case is presented, and several recommendations aimed to identify, prevent and treat alterations or disharmonies in the family dynamics, which predispose and/or contribute towards structuring this type of disorder, are considered. **KEY WORDS:** ADHD, family psychotherapy, brief psychotherapy, psychotherapy within the public institution.

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ATTENTION DEFICIT SYNDROME. BETWEEN PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOANALYSIS

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In this paper, the author considers Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD) from two perspectives: a) the Psychiatric perspective, owing to the undeniable disorder of attention, the presence of aetiopathogenic genetic factors, and the improvement of symptoms, in some cases, with medication (methylphenidate), and b) the Psychoanalytic perspective, as medication doesn't deal with the family dysfunctions nor with the representations of the self in the structuring of the child's psyche. The author shows with clinical material that psychiatry and psychoanalysis, in a dynamic relationship, are able to adapt to the characteristics and needs of the child and his family throughout the different stages of clinical evolution. KEY WORDS: attention deficit, hyperactivity, family dysfunctions.

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DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD). NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH CONSENSUS STATEMENT

* *National Institutes of Health (NIH) Consensus Statement*

The objective of this NIH Consensus Statement is to inform the biomedical research and clinical practice communities of the results of the NIH Consensus Development Conference on Diagnosis and Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The statement provides state-of-the-art information regarding effective treatments for ADHD and presents the conclusions and recommendations of the consensus panel regarding these issues. In addition, the statement identifies those areas of study that deserve further investigation. Upon completion of this educational activity, the reader should possess a clear working clinical knowledge of the state of the art regarding this topic. The target audience of clinicians for this statement includes, but is not limited to, psychiatrists, family practitioners, paediatricians, internists, neurologists, psychologists, and behavioural medicine specialists.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Consensus Statement. Diagnosis and Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Volume 16, Number 2, November 16-18, 1998

IMPROVEMENT MEASURES WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD FOR CHILDREN WITH ADHD

Beatriz Mena Pujol *

This paper points out the relevance of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder by presenting different statistical studies that indicate how children with ADHD simultaneously present other associated problems, especially within the school setting. Several recommendations directed to the educational community are suggested. KEY WORDS: hyperactivity attention deficit, mental disorder, executive functions.

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