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CLINICAL AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE IN A SAMPLE OF BRAZILIAN CHILDREN WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDERS (ADHD)

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The main objective of this study was to analyse the clinical and neuropsychological profile of a sample of Brazilian children with ADHD, in order to contribute for diagnostic procedures. Participants were 150 children aged 7 to 14 with complaints of attention difficulties and/or hyperactivity. They were assessed by a multidisciplinary team with a battery of neuropsychological tests.

Results: 75 children (55 male) fulfilled the criteria for ADHD: 35 of inattentive type, 28 of combined type and 12 hyperactive/impulsive. In addition, 33 (44%) of the children had comorbidities. Children with higher scores for hyperactivity and impulsivity showed low performance in these working memory measures than those with other types. In the Conners' Continuous Performance Test (CPT), a higher rate of omissions was found in the inattentive group. Children with comorbidity of oppositional defiant disorder presented lower ISI and Hit RT scores in addition to higher rates of omission.

Conclusion: This study suggests that neuropsychological profile in children with ADHD is associated to specific differences in working memory performance and also in specific measures of the CPT. In addition, better defined tests, involving not only attention and motor planning may determine different neuropsychological profiles and, consequently, different approaches in cognitive rehabilitation.