

P-425 - DOES ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER EXIST IN ISOLATED INDIGENOUS CHILDREN LIVING IN TRIBES FROM THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON?

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The clinical constructs of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) have been described in several cultures worldwide. Yet this symptomatic presentation still remains to be assessed in remote population groups.

Objective: To explore the possibility of the existence of ADHD' symptoms among settlement-dwelling indigenous children of the Karajá ethnic group in the Brazilian Amazon and to estimate the rate of ADHD' symptoms among 7-16-year-olds.

Method: All parents/caretakers of 7-16-year olds from all (N=5) most populated indigenous groups were invited to participate, if they were worried about their children emotional/behavioural problems. Fifty three parents spontaneously came for a psychiatric interview (DSM-IV criteria applied), individually conducted at the settlement's health post by a child psychiatrist.

Results: The estimated rate of ADHD' symptoms in problematic indigenous children aged 7-16 years was 24.5% (95% CI: 13.6 - 35.4) since 13 out of 53 parents/caretakers reported the classical triad of ADHD symptoms (inattentiveness, hyperactivity, impulsiveness).

Conclusion: ADHD is a clinically relevant construct in the Karajá indigenous population, representing a major concern among parents/caretakers of children and adolescents from this ethnic group.