

Overdiagnosticering af ADHD i Danmark

- En undersøgelse af hvad der karakteriserer de børn, hvis ADHD-diagnose og SDQ-score ikke stemmer overens

Kandidatspeciale

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What characterizes the 7-year-old children in Denmark, whose SDQ-score and ADHD-diagnosis are not coherent?

Background: Attention deficit-/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a chronic disorder with a substantial lifelong impact on social and academic performance, as well as health in general. There is an ongoing scientific and public debate, regarding whether ADHD is overdiagnosed in children, and whether a trend for potential overdiagnosis and underdiagnosis is found.

The aim of this master was 1) in a study, investigate how many children there are, whose SDQ-score and ADHDdiagnosis are incoherent in the DNBC, and, furthermore, if the mother's socio-occupational status, family structure, the child's gender or the mother's history of ADHD symptoms are associated with the risk of inconsistency between the SDQ-score and the ADHD diagnosis, and 2) in the appendix, investigate what consequences an ADHD diagnosis can have for the child and their family.

Method: In the study, data from the Danish Birth Cohort Study is used, where approximately 100,000 pregnant woman originally enrolled during 1996-2002.

Results: Logistic regression analysis found, that the risk of a child being ADHD diagnosed despite a normal SDQ-score, is associated with the variables. Furthermore, the risk increases if the child is a boy, the mother is in the high socio-occupational-group, the child does not live with both parents, or if the mother has a history of ADHD symptoms. The appendix contributes with a discussion of the potential risk an ADHD diagnosis can cause; an ADHD diagnosed child has an increased risk of becoming a drug abuser or criminal, and, in general, having poorer health compared with children without an ADHD-diagnosis. In addition, an ADHD diagnosed child is at risk of being stigmatized. The potential consequences of an ADHD diagnosis probably do not depend on, whether the child is diagnosed according to the diagnostic criteria.

Conclusion: It is important to get the right diagnosis in order to get the right treatment. This study identified children, whose SDQ-score and ADHD diagnosis were incoherent, which can indicate that there is a problem with over-diagnosis and under-diagnosis in Denmark.