ADHD COMORBIDITY
Bridging Science and Practice

24th Annual CHADD International Conference on ADHD
Saturday November 10th, 2012
San Francisco, California

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RELATED DISORDERS

**Oppositional Defiant Disorder—60%**
- stubborn, defiant, argumentative
- angry and short-tempered
- resentful, demanding, annoying
- mostly combined type, more boys than girls
- responsive to medications in ADHD
- non-ADHD are **not** helped by stimulants

Pathways to Oppositional Behavior

ADHD
Culture
OPPOSITIONAL BEHAVIOR
Innate temperament
Attachment
Family dysfunction
### Related Disorders

**Conduct Disorder—25%**
- aggression to people, animals
- intimidation, sexual assault
- destruction of property
- fire setting, vandalism
- deceitfulness, habitual lying
- theft, shoplifting

**Alcohol/Substance Abuse Disorder—25%**
- 30% increased risk than general population
- Nearly 3x increased risk when conduct disorder present
- risk reduced/unchanged if youngster treated with medications over long period of time
- use of medications as prescribed does not create addictive-type brain functioning

**Emotional Disorders—25%**
- adjustment disorders
- separation anxiety disorder
- generalized anxiety disorder
- obsessive-compulsive disorder
- depression
**RELATED DISORDERS**

**Learning Disabilities—30%**
- often average IQ
- mostly reading/language
- also written language, mathematics, non-verbal
- increased prevalence than normal population
- non-random mating/co-aggregation

**Sensory Processing/Integration Disorder**
- tactile, auditory, proprioceptive, vestibular, olfactory, visual, gustatory, visual, pain, temperature
- hypersensitivity; hyposensitivity; sensory seeking
- about 5% (?)
- common in autism, but also other children
- hunger, sleep, anxiety issues
- impacts social/emotional/behavioral issues
- essential for optimal learning

**Speech and Language Disorders—30%**
- expressive language
- articulation disorder; dyspraxia of speech
- receptive language
- central auditory processing disorder
Tic Disorders—25%
- Motor/vocal tics
- Tourette’s Syndrome
- Neurobiological circuitry
- Early onset, moderates in adolescence
- Medication side effects

Pediatric Bipolar Disorder
- Highly Controversial
- Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder (severe, frequent temper tantrums)
- Ultrarapid cycling; discrete episodes; elevated mood; grandiosity; pressured speech; excessive activity; sexualized behavior; family history

Sleep Disorders—25%
- Disruptive, inconsistent sleep routine
- Insomnia
- Delayed sleep phase disorder (mostly teens)
- Restless Leg Syndrome, Periodic Limb Movement Disorder
- Melatonin, clonidine, Trazodone
- Educate all parents about sleep hygiene
RELATED DISORDERS

Motivation Deficit Disorder

- Marked indifference about school and/or academics
- Cognitive and learning skills intact, but consistent academic underachievement
- May show selective effort in preferred subjects
- May enjoy recreational, social aspects of school, or simply hate school altogether
- May not have fully developed OD or other disorder
- Often makes excuses, has vague complaints, lies about schoolwork, avoidant and resistant about homework, etc.

PATHWAYS

ADHD

Learning Disabled

Oppositional Defiant

Sensory Processing

Motivational Deficit

Auditory Processing

Sleep Deprivation

Emotional

PREVALENCE OF ADHD ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHIC REGION

Prevalence Estimate (%)

Am J Psychiatry, 164:942-948
June 2007
LEARN MORE

7. Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder -- bipolar comorbidity in children and adolescents Bipolar Disorders, August 2006, v8 n4, pp. 373-381. / Masi, Gabrielle; Perugi, Giulio; Torri, Cristina; Miliepidi, Stefania et al; Wiley, August 2006.