KSKidsMAP

Kansas Together for Pediatric Mental Health Care Access

Pediatric Mental Health Toolkit
Topic: ADHD
Part 1: How to use screening tools and make a diagnosis
ADHD: How to use screening tools and make a diagnosis

• Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorder which affects 5%-10% of school-age children

• ADHD entails a pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity/impulsivity that compromises the child’s academic or social functioning

• Several symptoms are present before the age of 12 years

• Several symptoms are present in two or more settings
ADHD: How to use screening tools and make a diagnosis

• ADHD is frequently comorbid with other psychiatric disorders.
• 54%-84% of children and adolescents with ADHD may meet criteria for oppositional defiant disorder (ODD)
• 15%-19% of patients with ADHD will develop substance use disorders
• 25%-35% of patients with ADHD will have a coexisting learning or language problem
• Up to 1/3 of patients with ADHD will suffer from an anxiety disorder
ADHD: How to use screening tools and make a diagnosis

• Screening for ADHD should be part of every patient’s mental health assessment

• Clinician should screen for ADHD by specifically asking questions regarding the major symptom domains of ADHD (inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity) and if such symptoms cause impairment
ADHD: How to use screening tools and make a diagnosis

• Evaluation of the preschooler, child, or adolescent for ADHD should consist of:

1. Detailed clinical interviews with the parent and patient about DSM ADHD symptoms (must have at least 6 of 9 of the inattention cluster and/or at least 6 of 9 of hyperactive/impulsive criteria), duration (6 months), onset
2. Obtaining information about the patient’s school or day care functioning
3. Evaluation of comorbid psychiatric disorders
4. Review of the patient’s medical, social, and family histories
ADHD: How to use screening tools and make a diagnosis

• The parent and often the teacher should complete one of the many standardized behavior rating scales

• Rating scales can be used in the assessment of ADHD and monitoring of treatments

• Some of these scales not only measure ADHD symptoms but also tap into other common comorbid psychiatric conditions
ADHD: How to use screening tools and make a diagnosis

• Scales in common use are:
  • Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) which includes a parent-completed and a teacher-completed form
  • Conners Parent Rating Scale-Revised (CPRS-R)
  • Conners Teacher Rating Scale-Revised (CTRS-R)
  • Swanson, Nolan, and Pelham (SNAP-IV) which also screens for other DSM diagnoses
  • Vanderbilt ADHD Diagnostic Parent and Teacher Scales which also screens for comorbid conditions
Reference

Disclosure

Thank you for viewing the KSKidsMAP toolkit on ADHD. KSKidsMAP intends for this toolkit to be used in conjunction with the KSKidsMAP program and not as a stand-alone resource. KSKidsMAP provides case-based consultation with experts in pediatric mental health, ongoing education and mentorship through the Virtual TeleECHO clinic, and physician and clinician wellness resources to those providing medical care to youth and adolescents with mental illness. Please connect with KSKidsMAP by emailing KSKidsMAP@kumc.edu or calling 1-800-332-6262.