

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Description

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a behavior problem characterized by a short attention span, low frustration tolerance, impulsivity, distractibility, and usually, hyperactivity. This can result in poor school performance, difficulty in peer relationships, and conflict between parent and child .

Causes

Recent research indicates neurotransmitter abnormalities, e.g., decreased activity or stimulation in upper brainstem and frontal-midbrain tracts. Toxins, neurologic immaturity, and environmental problems have also been hypothesized.

Many factors generate symptoms that closely resemble ADHD, including sensitivities to food additives (artificial food colors, flavorings, and preservatives), intolerances to foods (corn, wheat, milk, soy, oranges, eggs, or chocolate), nutrient deficiencies and imbalances, heavy metal intoxication, and toxic pollutant burden. Also, evidence is mounting that abnormal thyroid responsiveness, perhaps engendered perinatally by environmental pollutants, is on the rise and predisposes to ADHD.

Sugar intake makes a marked contribution to hyperactive, aggressive, and destructive behavior. A large study found that 74 percent of hyperactive children manifested abnormal glucose tolerance in response to a sucrose meal.

Children exposed acutely or chronically to lead, arsenic, aluminum, mercury, or cadmium are often left with permanent neurological sequelae that include attentional deficits, emotional lability, and behavioral reactivity.

ADHD is associated with poor prenatal health (preeclampsia, drug and alcohol use, smoking). ADHD is associated with, but not caused by: Learning disabilities, Tourette's, Mood disorders, Oppositional defiant disorder, and Conduct disorder.

Lead poisoning and Medication reactions (decongestant, antihistamine, theophylline, phenobarbital) may cause similar symptoms.

Specialty Lab Tests

The Hair Elemental Analysis examines hair samples for levels of toxic and nutrient elements. Toxicity and nutrient insufficiencies are identified, allowing for precise intervention.

The Food Allergy (Antibody) Profile is an ELISA test of IgE and IgG antibodies for 96-combined foods or 100 vegetarian foods. Vegetarian food categories include dairy, eggs, fruits, nuts and grains, and vegetables.

The Comprehensive Allergy (Antibody) Profile assays blood for immediate and delayed reactions to 96 combined foods or 100 vegetarian foods, and 36 region-specific inhalants, allowing patients to moderate exposure to allergens. Includes separate IgE & IgG profiles. Various add-on panels are also available, including a 24-spice panel.

The Metabolic Dysglycemia Profile includes two-hour pre- and post-prandial analyses of glucose and insulin tolerance, salivary assessment of bioavailable DHEA and cortisol, and fasting blood assays of hemoglobin A1c, fructosamine, and IGF-1. Available with an optional add-on lipid profile.

The Inhalants Profile is an ELISA test of IgE antibodies to 36 region-specific pollens and environmental inhalants.

The Cotinine Assay examines urine to determine the presence of cotinine, a nicotine metabolite, which is an indicator of exposure to second-hand smoke. This test is useful in cases of recurrent infections or allergy in children of smokers.