

Resource 4: The ICD-10 criteria

UK-used criteria for hyperkinetic disorder in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition (the ICD-10 criteria).

(Geneva: World Health Organisation, 1990)

A. Demonstrates abnormality of attention and activity at home, for the age and development level of the child, as evidenced by at least three of the following attention problems:

- a. Short duration to spontaneous activity.
- b. Often leaving play activities unfinished.
- c. Over-frequent changes between activities.
- d. Unduly high distractibility during study.
- e. Undue lack of persistence at tasks set by adults.

And by at least two of the following activity problems:

- f. Continuous motor restlessness.
- g. Markedly excessive fidgeting or wriggling during spontaneous activities.
- h. Markedly excessive activity in situations requiring relative stillness.
- i. Difficulty in remaining seated when required.

B. Demonstrates abnormality of attention and activity at school or nursery, for the age and development level of the child, as evidenced by at least two of the following attention problems:

- a. Undue lack of persistence at tasks.
- b. Unduly high distractibility, ie, often towards extrinsic stimuli.
- c. Over-frequent changes between activities when choice is allowed.
- d. Excessively short duration of play activities.

And by at least two of the following activity problems:

- e. Continuous and excessive motor restlessness in school.
- f. Markedly excessive fidgeting and wriggling in structured situations.
- g. Excessive levels of off-tasks activity.
- h. Unduly often out of seat when required to be sitting.

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C. Directly observed abnormalities of attention or activity. This must be excessive for the child's age and development level. The evidence may be any of the following:

- a. Direct observation of the criteria in A or B above.
- b. Observation of abnormal levels of motor activity, or off-task behaviour, or lack of persistence in activities, in a setting outside home or school.
- c. Significant impairment of performance on psychometric test of attention.
- d. Does not meet criteria for pervasive development disorder, mania, depressive or anxiety disorder.
- e. Onset before the age of 6 years.
- f. Duration of at least 6 months.
- g. IQ above 50.