

LENGTH OF BREASTFEEDING IN ADHD CHILDREN - A FACTOR IN ADHD DEVELOPMENT?

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Introduction: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is the most commonly diagnosed behavioural disorder of childhood. It affects about 3 - 5% of school aged children. ADHD may lead to cognitive and behavioural problems and further psychiatric symptoms and disorders. Current research shows possible changes of somatic development of ADHD children comparing to non ADHD children. Etiology of these changes is still unclear. It is hypothesized that it can be caused by ADHD specific endocrinologic changes, medication or a ADHD life style. The growth of children may be influenced by further external factors - i.e. length of breastfeeding.

Objectives and aims: The aim of the study was to compare how long a group of ADHD children - comparing to non ADHD children had been breast fed after the birth.

Methods: We assessed a group of mothers of ADHD children (n=100) and non ADHD children (n=100) with structured interview oriented to breast feeding.

Results: In our pilot study we identified that ADHD children were breastfed substantially shorter time (avg = 2,5 month) than non ADHD children (avg = 7,8 month) at statistically significant level ($p < 0.01$).

Conclusions: The presented study suggests that ADHD in very young children may influence mother's behaviour leading to shortening time of breastfeeding. This may lead to further developmental changes. The presented study proposes that developmental changes in ADHD - especially somatic ones may be caused by complex ethology and therefore it is necessary assess not only the child but also conditions of its development.