

Abstract

This study attempted to identify correlates associated with childhood psychopathology. A two-stage epidemiological study of behavior problems in the Chinese preschool children in Hongkong was conducted. 221 children aged 36-48 months participated in this study. They were diagnosed for three disorders commonly found in preschool years, namely attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), conduct disorder (CD) and emotional problems. Stepwise multiple regression was employed on 36 correlates possibly associated with each disorder. The results showed that three disorders shared some common correlates. ADHD could be distinguished by markers of neuro-developmental problems while CD was associated with risks evolving around parent-child interaction. As for emotional problems, no clear pattern of correlates could be identified.