

Abstract

This present study aimed at exploring the relationship between different dimensions of parenting practices and the symptomatology of ADHD children. Taken into account its frequent comorbidity with ODD, symptom severity of ODD behaviors was also analyzed. 75 Han Chinese boys aged from 6 to 12 (mean age = 9.48 years, SD = 1.70) who were clinically diagnosed as ADHD combined type participated in this study. Two questionnaires were administered to their parents: the Strengths and Weaknesses of ADHD Symptoms and Normal Behaviors (SWAN) Rating Scale to assess the symptom severity of the children and the Alabama Parenting Questionnaire (APQ) completed by both mothers and fathers separately to self-evaluate their own parenting practices. Findings seemed supporting the etiology of ADHD which was more of a developmental disorder while ODD was a socialization problem. Yet effective parenting practices were essential not only for ODD, but also to accommodate the special behavioral patterns of ADHD. Results also reflected the different roles of maternal and paternal parenting and the importance of parenting concordance. This cross-sectional study involved parent informants revealed the associations between parenting and ADHD symptomatology in a local pool of subjects, a longitudinal study to engage also teachers and clinicians was called for to establish a causal relationship between the variables.