

Abstract of thesis entitled  
“Time Estimation and IQ  
in Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)”

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The present study aimed to investigate the nature of deficit in sense of time and its relationship with the performance of time estimation tasks. One hundred eighty-four (184) ADHD and one hundred twenty-four (124) control Chinese Han boys aged 6 to 12 participated in this study. It was hypothesized that ADHD rather than control subjects tended to overestimate the presented time intervals (6s, 12s, 36s and 60s). Consistent with previous findings, ADHD children were found to have impaired sense of time, and less accurate and more variable in performance of time estimation task when compared to normal children. Moreover, even after controlling IQ, there were significant difference between ADHD and control children across the four time intervals. In addition, moderation of time interval was found in the significant group difference in term of degree of consistency across the three trials for each subject. Finally, inattention, which impaired counting, might contribute to the deficit of the sense of time. Limitation and future studies were discussed. Experimental environment appeared to be a confound to the present findings. Counting, commonly used by children in this study, could be developed to be a new psychotherapy.