

**Examining the Relationship Between Delay Aversion and Time Perception
in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**

Ng Wing Tung Vivienne

1155009152

Abstract

There is a higher tendency for children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) to choose smaller sooner (SS) over larger later (LL) rewards than controls. This delay aversive behavior may be related to an inaccurate perception of time. 129 children with ADHD and 142 non-ADHD controls (aged between 6-12 years) completed a verbal time estimation task and the Maudsley Index of Delay Aversion (MIDA) (Kuntsi, Oosterlaan, & Stevenson, 2001). In MIDA, one condition reduced overall trial duration while the other did not. Results showed that participants with ADHD chose SS more than controls under both conditions. They also overestimated more than controls in the time estimation task. Deficit in time perception was found to be positively correlated with ADHD SS preference in the with post-reward delay (WPRD) condition but not in the without post-reward delay condition (WoPRD) in MIDA. The results suggested that children with ADHD employed different strategies in approaching the two MIDA conditions, which may be explained by differences in attentional focus, emotional states and motivational levels.

Keywords: ADHD, delay aversion, time perception, children