

Abstract

Impairments of attention are among the most inconsistently reported cognitive deficits in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention-Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD). This study sought to compare the attention performance of 69 IQ-matched high-functioning ASD, ADHD and typically-developing (TD) children of Chinese Ethnicity. Six neuropsychological tests were administered to measure the selective, sustained and alternating attention deficits of the children. These include the D2 Test, WISC Digit Span Test, Coding Test, Children's Colour Trail Test 1 & 2, and Wisconsin Card Sorting Test. Results show that alternating attention performance of both ASD and ADHD were significantly lower than normal children, with greater deficits in ASD. Deficits in selective and sustained attention are significantly greater in ASD children than their ADHD and typically developing counterparts.

Keywords: Selective Attention, Sustained Attention, Alternating Attention, ADHD, ASD