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ADHD: ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER

The 21st Century illness?



Introduction

In recent years, education and child psychiatry professionals have focused their attention on studying attention deficit, impulsivity, and the combination of both.

It is the most commonly diagnosed disorder in school-age children, which has led to the calculation that 4% of the children suffer from it, being more common in boys than in girls.

It is widely known that diseases and their treatments are strongly influenced by the interests of the pharmaceutical industry. If these interests focus on a more subjective field, such as psychiatry, we may find dangerous conceptions concerning diagnoses.

The information presented below is intended to clarify certain statistical facts about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and the reasons behind its increasingly frequent diagnosis.



General information

Prevalence

The prevalence of a certain disease measures the proportion of a population affected by it (or another risk factor) during a particular period.

It is intended to analyze health-related phenomena, measure their frequency and develop hypotheses on the possible causes of diseases to find a cure. This measurement is used by epidemiologists, health care managers, insurance agents, and members from different fields of public health.

In order to study a disease like ADHD and characterize it collectively, it must be prevalent, or frequent. Prevalence depends directly on statistics.

Currently, the prevalence of ADHD depends on the number of times it has been diagnosed; therefore it cannot be used as a parameter to determine the occurrence of the deficit with certainty.

This is probably the reason why it is still argued whether ADHD is an epidemic or not.

