

Potential cognitive, parenting and developmental mediators of the relationship between ADHD and depression

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Abstrak

The authors investigated the role of parent behavior management and locus of control in mediating the relationships between ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder) and depression in a community sample of 232 children with ADHD and 130 community controls. Results supported the hypothesized path models to depression for older and younger subjects. For older subjects (10 years and older), a cognitive variable, locus of control, partially mediated the relationships between ADHD and parent management and depression. In addition, parent management partially mediated the relationships of ADHD with locus of control and depression. For the younger group (under 8 years old), however, locus of control did not mediate the effects of parent management and ADHD on depression. Consistent with developmental theories, only an environment variable, parent management, explained the relationship between ADHD and depression for this younger group. For children 8-9 years old, both locus of control and parent management partially mediated the ADHD-depression relationship; however, similar to the younger children, locus of control did not mediate the parent management-depression relationships. Implications for designing interventions and prevention strategies for children with ADHD are discussed.