

# Adolescent

ADHD - untreated can result in impairments. This is thought to arise from brain processing conflicts between "Directed Attention" vs. "Fascination".

.....Neuroscience Biobehavior Review 2003:27:593

This dual pathway for attention and motivation suggests there is a problem with inhibiting "Executive Tasks" due to competing "Reward Circuits".

# 1. Adolescent Academic Symptoms: untreated

- 80% H.S. drop outs meet criteria for ADHD
- 30% may have learning disorders
- lower academic achievement
- repeat grades more often
- fail to work independently well
- poor organization and planning
- poor time management
- poor follow through

## 2. Adolescent Emotional Symptoms

- low self esteem; lack of drive to try new challenges that risk failure
- poor peer relations
- limited skills to evaluate cues from social feedback
- mood swings, hypersensitivity to criticism, social anxiety, depression, oppositionality

### 3. Adolescent Behavioral Symptoms untreated

- higher rate of pregnancy ( 1000% )
- higher rate of STD'S ( 400% sexually transmitted disease)
- increase in accidents by up to 400% (#1 cause of fatality ages 0-44 years)
- significant substance abuse
- significant tobacco and alcohol abuse
- criminal records
  - arrests /39% vs. 20% age matched peers
  - convictions /28% vs. 11% non ADHD peers

## 4. Differential diagnosis of ADHD

Coexisting conditions (associated but symptomatically distinct disorders)

- conduct disorder
- learning disorder
- oppositional defiant disorder
- bipolar affective disorder
- Epilepsy
- Tourette syndrome ( ADHD, OCD, vocal-motor Tics )

## 5. Disorders affecting attention

- anxiety disorders ( social phobia or social anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder )
- mood disorders ( depression, cyclothymia, bipolar affective disorder )
- substance abuse
- schizophrenia
- psychosis
- narcolepsy
- epilepsy ( absence, partial complex epilepsy )
- General metabolic medical condition ( thyroid , infection, etc )





