



What Leads to ADHD?

by G. Bossik on June 14th, 2012 at 9:08 am



In a [recent study](#) conducted in Thailand, scientists learned that certain genetic and environmental factors could predispose children to [ADHD](#).

The research was done at Vajira Hospital in Bangkok, where two groups of children — an ADHD group and a control group — were evaluated for risk factors and tested for allergies.

Among the forty children in each group, the children with ADHD had physical and genetic risk factors such as a greater history of head injuries and a higher incidence of mothers drinking alcohol during pregnancy, according to the scientists.

Allergies were also found to be more prevalent in the ADHD group. "Our results suggest that there were increased rates of allergic sensitization and allergic rhinitis in ADHD children," the scientists reported.

In the study, Panadda Suwan and two colleagues noted that the ADHD children included thirty-one males and nine females and were much more likely to test positive for various inhaled allergens than the control group.

Suwan and colleagues added that a skin prick test was used to test for allergies to two types of house dust mites, Bermuda grass, American cockroach, German cockroach, and Johnson grass.

"Sensitization to Johnson grass was significantly higher in the ADHD group, 30.0% in ADHD cases and 10.0% in control cases," said the scientists.

The scientists found that allergic sensitization may lead to the development of ADHD. They said that this could be due to an immunological reaction that may affect the brain.

Ultimately, they recommended that children with ADHD be tested for allergic sensitization.

Sources:

1. Suwan P, Akaramethathip D, and Noipayak P. "[Association Between Allergic Sensitization and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder \(ADHD\)](#)," Asian Pacific Journal of Allergy and Immunology.