

## **Current ADHD diagnostic/evaluation methods in children and adolescents**

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ADHD diagnosis is currently based on the DSM-5 or ICD-10 diagnostic criteria. However, in order for the expert to find out whether these criteria are met in each particular case, a number of procedures are usually followed, although there is no specific diagnostic procedure for reliably diagnosing ADHD. Assessment of ADHD in children and adolescents is a multidimensional and complex process that consists of an evaluation of both symptoms and associated impairments. It relies on several informants, requires the use of multiple methods and uses several instruments. These include broadband and narrowband rating scales, parent and teacher interviews, functional behavior analysis, and child clinical assessment, including child interview, behavioral observation, neuropsychological assessment and, eventually, medical evaluation. This paper briefly presents the above methods, integrates them in a cohesive diagnostic/evaluative procedure, comments on their basic strengths and limitations and concludes on the main goals of a comprehensive diagnostic procedure, leading to a personalized treatment plan.