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A paradigm for targeting functional impairment as an outcome in Attention-Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder

Although functional impairment is required for a diagnosis in the DSM 5, the time frame and definition of functional impairment is ambiguous. We present a conceptual review clarifying the difference between functional impairment as a stable trait representing strength or disability in various domains, and functional impairment as secondary to emotional or behaviour problems, which is a state sensitive to change with treatment intervention. Functional impairment as a measure of treatment outcome includes both change from baseline and status at the endpoint of treatment. When using a validated measure of function, functional improvement can be defined as the percentage of patients who achieve the Minimal Important Clinical Difference (MCID) and functional remission as the percentage of patients who normalize at treatment endpoint. True treatment remission should be defined as both symptomatic and functional remission.

Recent Publications

1. Weiss, M.D.; Stein, M.A. Measurement-Informed Care in Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). *Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am* 2022.
2. Weiss, M.D. A Paradigm for Targeting Functional Impairment as an Outcome in Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. *Brain Sciences* 2022, 12, 1014.
3. Tarakcioglu, M.; Caliskan, Y.; Kadak, M.; Aliyev, N.; Aksoy, U.; Tufan, A.; Gundogdu, O.; Memik, N.; Weiss, M. Is Functional Improvement Always Correlated with Symptomatic Improvement in Children With Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Managed with Oros Methylphenidate? A Prospective Open-Label Naturalistic Follow-Up Study. *Psychiatry and Clinical Psychopharmacology* 2020, 30, 128-135, doi:10.5455/pcp.20200526011248.

Biography

Margaret D. Weiss, is currently the Director of Clinical Research in Child Psychiatry at Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge MA. She has specialized in diagnosis, treatment and research in ADHD and other neurodevelopmental disorders in all age groups. She received her MD and Fellowship in Psychiatry from McGill University and her PhD in the History of Science from Harvard University. Weiss has published over 150 articles relating to these topics. Weiss is known for her research demonstrating that melatonin is a safe and effective treatment for initial insomnia in ADHD. She is the author of the Weiss Functional Impairment Rating Scale, a widely used measure translated into 22 languages. She is on the advisory council of the Canadian Attention Deficit Disorder Resource Alliance, and the board of the American Professional Association for ADHD and Related Disorders.

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