

ADHD, CREATIVITY, AND METHYLPHENIDATE

Creativity, measured by the Torrance nonverbal thinking test, was compared in 19 boys with ADHD and 21 control subjects. Boys with ADHD received methylphenidate (mean dose, 0.4 mg/kg) before the first of two test sessions. Torrance scores were 7% lower in boys with ADHD compared to controls. Methylphenidate did not adversely affect creative thinking scores in ADHD boys. (Funk JB et al. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, creativity, and the effects of methylphenidate. Pediatrics April 1993; 91: 816-819). (Reprints: Jeanne B Funk PhD, Dept of Pediatrics, Medical College of Ohio, PO Box 10008, Toledo, OH 43699).

COMMENT. The results suggest that impulsivity, a characteristic of ADHD children, is not fundamental to creativity; and creativity, as measured by the nonverbal Torrance test, is not impaired by methylphenidate.

VISUAL EVENT RELATED POTENTIALS, EEG, AND ADHD

The effects of methylphenidate (MPH) and sodium valproate (VPA) on the visual event related potentials (VERP) and EEG of children with ADHD were evaluated at the Department of Psychology, Tel Aviv University, Israel, and North Shore University Hospital, Cornell Univ Med College, New York. Two subgroups of ADHD were identified: one with abnormal and the other with normal EEGs and VERPs. The amplitude of the ERP slow negative wave was reduced by MPH and VPA in the abnormal group but was unaffected in the group with normal VERPs. (Frank Y. Visual event related potentials after methylphenidate and sodium valproate in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Clin EEG Jan 1993; 24:19-24). (Reprints: Yitzchak Frank MD, Div of Pediatric Neurology, North Shore University Hospital, 300 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030).

COMMENT. The effect of medications in ADHD children appears to be related to electrophysiological findings. A positive effect is expected in patients with abnormal EEGs and VERPs.

DYSLEXIA

DYSLEXIA, HANDEDNESS, AND IMMUNE DISORDERS

An association between dyslexia, left-handedness, and immune disorders was investigated in 734 Norwegian grade 6 children, aged 12 years, at the Center for Reading Research, Stavanger, Norway, and the Department of Psychology, University of Bergen. In the sample studied, 10% of students were dyslexic, 8% were left-handed, 35% had allergic symptoms, and 6% were asthmatics. 67% of left-handed dyslexic children had immune disorders($P>.05$);