

A B C D E F G H Children's Health

Paying Attention To Gender Differences And ADHD

(NAPSA)—A growing number of parents, teachers and doctors have realized the different ways girls who have Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are affected. In fact, a recent survey found girls with ADHD have more difficulties in areas of social development including self-esteem, social relationships and family relationships than boys with the disorder.

Before being treated for their ADHD, girls reported having more difficulty making friends, getting along with parents, and focusing on schoolwork than boys with the disorder. Girls were also more likely than boys to say it was “very” or “somewhat” difficult to feel good about themselves or feel happy. More than half of girls’ parents thought ADHD affected their daughters’ self-esteem “a great deal.”

The survey was conducted by Harris Interactive on behalf of Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation and included interviews with parents of children with ADHD, adolescents with ADHD aged 12 to 17, teachers and the general public.

Girls More Likely To Go Undiagnosed

According to one estimate, as many as 75 percent of girls with ADHD may be missed. Experts believe this is because girls exhibit different symptoms than boys; they can be less hyperactive and more often show symptoms of inattention, such as forgetfulness, timidity, difficulty listening, anxiety and being highly distractible. Overall, research suggests that children with more inattentive symptoms are accurately diagnosed only 50 percent of the time.



It's important for parents to know how ADHD affects boys and girls differently.

Once it was indicated their child might have ADHD however, the survey results showed that almost all (92 percent) parents of girls were “very willing” to seek a medical opinion, compared to 73 percent of boys’ parents.

“Survey results suggest that girls’ parents are more willing to seek medical assistance for their child’s symptoms than boys’ parents,” said Patricia Quinn, M.D., Director, National Center for Gender Issues and ADHD. “This may be due to a number of factors, including the impact ADHD has on girls’ social development, the fact that the problem tends to go unaddressed longer in girls, and the misperception that the chronic and pervasive hyperactive symptoms of ADHD in males is just a case of ‘boys being boys.’”

Most Parents Surveyed Were Satisfied with Child's Treatment

Almost all parents whose children are being treated with medication said that the treatment has helped their child.

In addition to improving ADHD symptoms of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity, most children taking medication said treatment has helped improve their relationships with families, self-esteem, and friendships.

New Treatment Available

Despite the benefits of appropriate treatment, among those who take ADHD medication during the day at school, 38 percent of children said taking medicine at school makes them feel embarrassed. New medications taken once-daily in the morning are now available to treat ADHD. Ritalin® LA (methylphenidate HCl) extended release capsules have been proven safe and effective in the treatment of ADHD. In addition, efficacy has also been shown in patients with predominantly inattentive symptoms.

Ritalin LA is generally recommended as part of a comprehensive treatment regimen including behavior modification and counseling.

Ritalin LA is a schedule II controlled substance. It is contraindicated in patients known to be hypersensitive to the drug or to Ritalin, in patients with glaucoma, in patients with motor tics, and in patients with a family history or diagnosis of Tourette's syndrome. In addition, the medication is contraindicated during treatment with monoamine oxidase inhibitors and should not be taken until at least 14 days after discontinuation of a monoamine oxidase inhibitor.

For more information about ADHD, visit www.adhdinfo.com. Please see full prescribing information about Ritalin LA at www.pharma.us.novartis.com.