

ABSTRACT

Children diagnosed with ADHD are often found to have comorbid anxiety. However, the nature of anxiety in ADHD children is poorly understood and remains unclear. Also, the systematic investigation of such a phenomenon in a Chinese population is lacking. It is invaluable to examine the nature of anxiety in children with ADHD. Further investigation and understanding on this comorbid condition would enhance the design and implementation of specific therapeutic interventions for ADHD children with comorbid anxiety. To fill the research gap, the nature of anxiety in ADHD children is systematically examined from multiple perspectives, i.e. from the parents, the children themselves, and from objective psychophysiological measures. The present findings suggest that the comorbidity of anxiety disorders with ADHD is far above chance. Comparing with the sample of community children, the estimate of prevalence of anxiety disorders based on parent's judgment, children's self-report and blood pressure measurement consistently demonstrated that children with ADHD exhibit more anxiety symptoms than normal children.