

S15-04 - DO SYMPTOMS OF EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION RESPOND TO PHARMACOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF ADULT ADHD?

M. Rösler, W. Retz

University Hospital of the Saarland, Homburg/Saar, Germany

The core psychopathology of ADHD comprises attentional deficits, hyperactivity and impulsivity. At least in subpopulations the majority of individuals suffering from ADHD present with emotional symptoms additionally. There is an ongoing and controversial debate whether emotional symptoms belong to the disorder as further intrinsic ADHD psychopathology or may have their origin in comorbid affective disorders. There is growing evidence that emotional symptoms of ADHD as measured by the Wender-Reimherr Adult Attention Deficit Disorder Scale (WRAADDS) respond to treatment with Methylphenidate (MPH), while the classical symptoms of depression or anxiety disorder show no significant improvement.

We report on a 24-week, placebo controlled treatment study with MPH-extended release in 359 adults with ADHD. Emotional symptoms were assessed with the WRAADDS. Symptoms of depression and anxiety were endorsed by use of the Symptom Checklist-90-Revised (SCL-90-R).

As compared with placebo we found a significant treatment response in favour of MPH-ER regarding emotional symptoms like affective lability, emotional overreactivity and temper control. The psychopathology of depression and anxiety did not display a significant treatment response.