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FAMILY HEALTHCARE AND ADHD IN FRANCE

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**Introduction:** Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a lifetime neuro-developmental disorder, which causes severe impairment in children and adolescents. A recent epidemiological study of children presenting with ADHD in France suggests an estimated prevalence of ADHD of 3.5-5.6%.

**Objectives:** A survey was conducted to gather information from the families of children with ADHD about the care pathway in France in order to improve understanding of the needs in this field.

**Methodology:** The survey was conducted between July and August 2009 via an online questionnaire, which was sent to 1217 families registered with the French ADHD association.

**Results:** The survey response rate was 23% and key findings include the following. Symptoms at school were the key driver in healthcare demand in 77% of cases. Waiting time for an appointment with a specialist averaged 8.2 months. More than 80% of parents felt involved in the choice of care for their children, while only 41% of families considered themselves well-informed during the diagnostic process. Of the 70% of children receiving ADHD medication at the time of the survey, 97% showed good adherence to treatment on school days.

**Conclusion:** The survey results suggest that the care pathway for ADHD in France is lengthy, with the average time taken before a specialist consultation estimated to be about one school year. Recognition of ADHD appears to originate at school rather than in a preventive manner by the healthcare system.

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