

Association of Anxiety, Anxiety Sensitivity and Depressive Symptoms with Aggression and Disruptive Behavioral Disorders in Children with ADHD

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Introduction: Numerous factors including anxiety, anxiety sensitivity (AS), and depression were reported to be relevant to the aggression both for disruptive behavioral disorders (DBD) in children and for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), but the pathways through which they act are insufficiently understood.

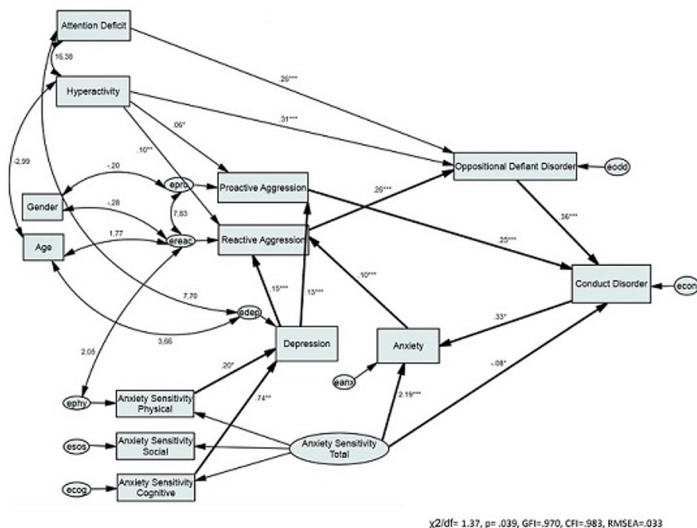
Objectives: To investigate the role of anxiety, AS, and depression in the relationship between aggression and DBD symptoms in ADHD children.

Methods: The sample consisted of 342 treatment naïve children with ADHD aged 9-17 years. ADHD severity and comorbid DBD were assessed via parent and teacher rated Turgay DSM-IV-Based Child and Adolescent Behavioral Disorders Screening and Rating Scale. Severity of anxiety, AS, depression, and reactive and proactive aggression of children were evaluated by self-report inventories. The association between DBD and other psychiatric variables was evaluated with two separate structural equation models.

Results: Relationships of psychiatric variables and DBD symptoms were presented in Figures 1 and 2.

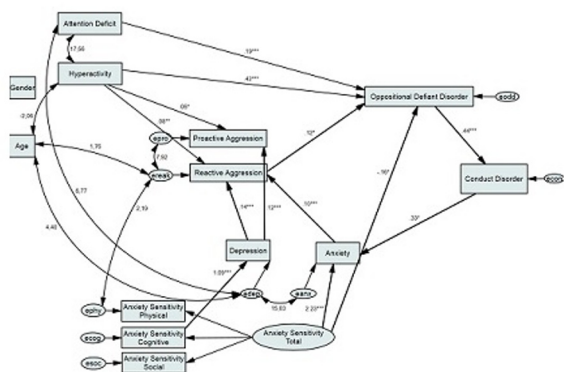
Discussion: These results may suggest the presence of a vicious circle between anxiety, reactive aggression and DBD in ADHD children. However, global AS seems to have a protective effect on the development of DBD, probably due to its role in aversive conditioning.

Figure 1: Structural model for the predictors of parent-rated disruptive behavioural disorders symptoms in children with ADHD



$\chi^2/df= 1.37, p=.039, GFI=.970, CFI=.983, RMSEA=.033$

Figure 2: Structural model for the predictors of teacher-rated disruptive behavioural disorders symptoms in children with ADHD



$\chi^2/df= 1.47, p=.013, GFI=.967, CFI=.979, RMSEA=.037$