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ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY SYMPTOMS IN CHILDREN WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER

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Introduction: There is little study about attention deficit hyperactivity Symptoms in children with PDD In the present study we evaluated the co-occurrence rate of ADHD and its subtypes according to DSM-IV-TR in children with high functioning PDD.

Method: Participants were recruited from the consecutive referrals to the child and adolescent psychiatric clinics in Ebne Sina and Sheikh Hospital, Mashhad, Iran. We selected 3-12 year old individuals who had PDD according to DSM IV-TR who had verbal or performance IQ of 70 or higher on WISC-III. The diagnosis was made by a certified child and adolescent psychiatrist. Subjects were divided into two age groups (children aged 3-7 and children aged 8-12).Forty children with the mentioned criteria were included in the sample.

Results: Among 40 subjects 31 children 22 boys and 9 girls (77/5%) met the DSM- IV-TR diagnostic criteria for ADHD.Fifteen children with combined type (37/5%),11 with predominantly inattentive type (27/5%) and 5 with predominantly hyperactive impulsive type (12/5%). The co occurrence rate of ADHD with PDD subtypes were 69/5 For Autistic Disorder and 51/5 For As /PPD NOS without a statistical significant difference ($P=0/078$).

The co occurrence rate of ADHD in 2 age groups were 36/3 (20 of 31) for the older group and 66/7 (11 of 31) for the younger group without a statistical Significant difference ($P=0/5$).

Discussion: The high co occurrence rate of ADHD in children with Autism spectrum disorder found in our study strongly indicates a clinical need to assess AD/HD symptoms in children with PDD.