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One of the disorders that most affects school and social performance is attention deficit disorder associated with hyperactivity or impulsivity (ADHD). The criteria established by DSM-IV-TR edition distinguish three subtypes: inattentive, hyperactive-impulsive and combined. There are other factors that increase the severity of the disorder. These factors have to do with different associated psychopathologies such as learning difficulties, depression, oppositional defiant disorder, behavior disorder, anxiety disorders and mood disorders. Mean comorbidity of ADHD with anxiety disorders is estimated at 20-25%. The main goal of this investigation is to determine whether there are differential patterns of attention (selective and concentration using D-2 attention test) and anxiety (trait and state anxiety using State-Trait Anxiety Inventory for Children) for these three types of ADHD. The sample was made up of 220 children (6-12 years): 56 in the control group, 54 with predominantly attention deficit disorder, 53 with predominantly hyperactivity-impulsivity disorder and 57 with combined inattentive-hyperactive disorder. We used a design of four groups, three corresponding to the ADHD subtypes and a control group without ADHD. The results obtained show that the four groups of subjects were significantly different in the two attentional variables and in trait and state anxiety. The combined subtype presents higher trait anxiety, whereas the inattentive subtype shows higher levels of state anxiety. The results reveal a new path of great interest concerning objective and reliable diagnostic assessment, and pharmacological and behavioral intervention adapted to each specific situation.

Keywords. Trait anxiety, state anxiety, ADHD, attention, subtypes.