# Malingering in ADHD and the use of symptom validity tests in neuropsychological assessment.

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Investigation of sensitivity and specificity of symptom validity tests for clinical use in neuropsychological assessment by patients with ADHD. Calculating measures that are indicative of suboptimal effort in regular neuropsychological tests for...

Ethical reviewApproved WMOStatusRecruitment stoppedHealth condition typeOther conditionStudy typeInterventional

## **Summary**

### ID

NL-OMON32942

## Source

**ToetsingOnline** 

#### **Brief title**

The effects of suboptimal effort on neuropsychological assessment by ADHD.

## **Condition**

- Other condition
- Cognitive and attention disorders and disturbances

#### **Synonym**

Malingering, suboptimal effort

#### **Health condition**

Malingering

## Research involving

Human

## **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** GGZ regio Breda (Breda)

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W,Ggz regio Breda

## Intervention

Keyword: ADHD, Malingering, suboptimal effort, Symptom validity

#### **Outcome measures**

### **Primary outcome**

Sensitivity en specificity of symptom validity tests for clinical use by patients with ADHD.

## **Secondary outcome**

Malingerparameters on regular neuropsychological tests

# **Study description**

## **Background summary**

Secondairy gains play an important role in aggravation and simulation of psychiatric complaints, also called malingering. On neuropsychological assessment this can lead to testscores below expectations or chance-level, due to suboptimal effort.

Recent research shows that within psychiatry 41 % of the patients that seek treatment expect to have secundairy gains from a psychiatric diagnose (Van Egmond 2005.) It is estimated that the prevalence of suboptimal effort and aggravation in the diagnosis of ADHD is 47,6 %. Suboptimal effort and malingering can be measured with symptom validity tests, but the clinical use of these tests by patients with ADHD is not researched yet.

## Study objective

Investigation of sensitivity and specificity of symptom validity tests for clinical use in neuropsychological assessment by patients with ADHD. Calculating measures that are indicative of suboptimal effort in regular neuropsychological tests for attention and memory.

## Study design

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A comparative study on testperformance of patients diagnosed with ADHD (N=100) and a group of healthy controls.(N=100). Both groups are subdivided into two conditions; a malingerconditon (N=50) and an optimal effort condition (N=50). The administered tests are symptom validity tests and regular tests for attention and memory. Also diagnose specific questionnaires will be administered. A pilot study will be conducted to verify if patients with objective cognitive dysfunction can pass the symptom validity tests.

#### Intervention

- SCL-90; questionnaire for psychiatric complaints.
- BDI; questionnaire for major depression.
- Pictorial Representation of Illness and Self Measure -Rev. 2; test that measures suffering.
- Continuous Performance Test; Computer test that measures reaction time and inhibition.
- Stroop Test; Test that measures attention and distraction.
- Amsterdamse Korte Termijn Geheugen Test (AKTG); Test that measures symptom validity.
- Word Memory Test; Computer test that measures memory and also has an index for suboptimal effort.
- Structured Inventory for Malingered Symptoms; Questionnaire of symptom validity.
- Wender Utah Rating Scale; Questionnaire for diagnosis of ADHD en ADD.
- Strategy questionnaire; Questionnaire that asks for applied strategy of malingering.

## Study burden and risks

The research has no burdens. An Iris cheque of ten euro is rewarded as a gift for participation.

## **Contacts**

## **Public**

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### **Scientific**

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# **Trial sites**

## **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

## Age

Adults (18-64 years) Elderly (65 years and older)

## Inclusion criteria

- Age 18-50
- Classified with ADHD according DSM IV
- No objection to pass one dosage of methylfenidate
- Permission of responsible medicist to skip one dosage of methylfenidate

## **Exclusion criteria**

- Not Dutch-speaking
- Usage of psychotrope medication or neuroleptica
- Comorbidity wit Psychotic Disorders or Bipolar Disorder. Exclusion criteria confirmed by responsible medicist.
- Comorbidity with major depression. Excluded by administration of a depression questionnaire.

# Study design

## **Design**

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model: Parallel

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Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Single blinded (masking used)

Control: Active

Primary purpose: Diagnostic

## Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 23-10-2009

Enrollment: 200

Type: Actual

## **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 05-09-2009

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METIGG: Medisch Ethische Toetsingscommissie Instellingen

Geestelijke Gezondheidszorg (Utrecht)

Approved WMO

Date: 15-01-2010

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METIGG: Medisch Ethische Toetsingscommissie Instellingen

Geestelijke Gezondheidszorg (Utrecht)

# **Study registrations**

## Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

## Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

# In other registers

Register ID

CCMO NL28707.097.09