

Empathy in 6-7 year old children with disruptive behavior disorders: neurobiological, psychological, behavioral and genetic assessment.

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The present study primarily focuses on differences between children with behavioral disorders and children with autism spectrum disorders and normal controls. Different aspects of empathy will be assessed: neurobiological, psychological, behavioral...

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Developmental disorders NEC
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON33848

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

Empathy in 6-7 year old children with behavioral disorders.

Condition

- Developmental disorders NEC

Synonym

ADHD and autism spectrum disorders, disruptive behavior disorders

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: eigen middelen afdeling;subsidie bij Hersenstichting Nederland werd aangevraagd

Intervention

Keyword: disruptive behavior disorders, empathy, genetics, neurobiological correlates

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Facial EMG reactions while viewing film clips with emotional facial expressions.

Secondary outcome

Results from a computer task, self-report of emotional pictures and questionnaires filled in by parents and teachers on empathy, aggressive behavior and psychopathic traits.

Differences in genetic data.

Study description

Background summary

Empathy deficits in children with disruptive behavior disorders (DBD) have been reported in clinical practice and previous research. A subgroup of children with DBD with severe deficits in empathy and more aggressive behavior probably exists. Aggressive behavior possibly is not inhibited in this group because they do not share the sadness or fear of others caused by their behavior. This subgroup possibly has a different neurobiological profile and a stronger genetic risk. A better understanding of differences might lead to more comprehensive and individualized approaches to treatment.

Study objective

The present study primarily focuses on differences between children with behavioral disorders and children with autism spectrum disorders and normal controls. Different aspects of empathy will be assessed: neurobiological, psychological, behavioral and genetic. The relationship between all of the

above findings on empathy with severity of current and future aggressive behavior and callous-unemotional traits will be examined.

Study design

The design is a case-control design, 5 groups will be compared: children with DBD only, children with ADHD, children with comorbid DBD and ADHD, children with autism spectrum disorders and normal controls. Additionally, we will contact parents of children formerly assessed with DBD. Within the group of children with DBD the relationship between measured empathy and aggressive behavior will be examined.

Study burden and risks

Burden and risks associated with participation are neglectable. All has been done to make participation as pleasant and playful as possible for the participating children. Data will be collected in the own school-environment of the child. Parents are given the opportunity to be present during assessment.

Contacts

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Scientific

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Children (2-11 years)

Inclusion criteria

Classification following DSM-IV criteria: ADHD and/or oppositional defiant disorder and/or conduct disorder and/or autism and/or pervasive developmental disorder NOS

Exclusion criteria

low intellectual functioning (IQ<70)

Study design

Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Basic science

Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruitment stopped
Start date (anticipated):	18-03-2009
Enrollment:	200
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date:	06-01-2009
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht (Utrecht)
Approved WMO	
Date:	14-07-2009
Application type:	Amendment
Review commission:	METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht (Utrecht)
Approved WMO	
Date:	26-10-2009
Application type:	Amendment
Review commission:	METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht (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	NL24237.041.08