Adolescents, Attention and Aggression: ADHD predictors of aggressive behaviours.

- Aggression as a multidimensional construct.
- ADHD and associated aggression.
- A questionnaire analysis of 293 adolescents.
- ADHD predictors of Aggression.
Four distinct dimensions of aggression:

- **Overt and Relational** = forms of aggressive behaviours.
- **Reactive and Instrumental** = underlying functions.

- **Overt** – direct actions intended to cause harm.
- **Relational** – Indirect and intended to damage emotionally or the position within peer group.
- **Reactive** – impulsive and a result of provocation.
- **Instrumental** – produced to achieve a goal.
- ADHD associated aggression.  
  *Connor, Chartier, Preen & Kaplan (2010); Nice (2006)*

- Higher levels of aggression displayed than peers.  
  *Zepf (2010)*

- Relationship between ADHD symptom severity and the severity of aggression.  
  *Connor & Ford (2012)*

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<th>Measures</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<td>Greater ADHD symptom severity was associated with increased aggression on all measures.</td>
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<td>Significant differences between ADHD and controls for all measures of overt aggression.</td>
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<td>Only combined ADHD subtype showed significant difference from controls for proactive aggression.</td>
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<td>Combined and inattentive ADHD subtypes were significantly different from controls for reactive aggression.</td>
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Aims:

- To investigate the relationship between ADHD subscales and aggression.
- To investigate how the subscales influence the four forms of aggression.

Research questions:

1) Does an increase in ADHD symptom severity increase aggression levels.

2) Do the individual ADHD subscales influence the form of aggression manifested.

3) Does gender effect the relationship between ADHD and aggression.
Participants: 293 (N= 155 Female, 135 Male, 3 undisclosed) aged 12–16.

The Conner3AI:
- 10 item self-report questionnaire.
- Differentiates between an ADHD group and general population.
- Measures 7 subscales of ADHD: Inattention
  - Negative impressions
  - Aggression
  - Family relations
  - Learning problems
  - Positive impressions
  - Hyperactivity/Impulsivity
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‘If others make me mad or upset, I often hurt them.’
**Overt reactive aggression**
‘I often threaten others to get what I want.’
**Overt instrumental aggression**
‘If others upset or hurt me, I often tell my friends to stop liking them.’
**Relational reactive aggression**
‘I often say mean things about others friends to get what I want.’
**Relational instrumental aggression**

**Aggression questionnaire:**
- 45 item questionnaire.
- Measured on a 5-point likert scale.
- Assessed the four dimensions of aggression.
- Friendly vs Unfriendly vignette assessing the impact of perceived friendliness on aggression – 15 items.
- Significant main effect of ADHD.
- Significant main interaction between ADHD type and gender.
- Significant main effect of gender—Females displayed higher level overall.
- Significant main effect of aggression.
- Significant main interaction for gender and aggression type.
- No main effect of gender—both groups displayed similar levels overall.
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<tr>
<td>Family Relations</td>
<td>Overt Reactive Aggression (F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive Impressions</td>
<td>Relational Instrumental Aggression (F)</td>
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- Significant correlation between overall ADHD scores and aggression.
- Four significant ADHD predictors of aggression.
- Aggression manifestation was influenced by gender.
1) Does an increase in ADHD symptom severity increase aggression levels.
   - Significant correlation between ADHD scores and aggression scores
   - Individuals with higher ADHD scores demonstrated higher levels of aggression across all four forms of aggression.

2) Do the individual ADHD subscales influence the form of aggression manifested.
   - Four ADHD subscales were significant predictors of aggression.
   - The form of aggression differed for the individual subscales.

3) Does gender effect the relationship between ADHD and aggression.
   - Significant interaction effect for gender and the form of aggression manifested.
   - Females displayed higher levels of ADHD.
   - ADHD predictors of aggression demonstrated an effect of gender.
Thank you for Listening.

Acknowledgments
Dr Amanda Ludlow.
REFERENCES

