
should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by D.Chenier - 2008/05/10 06:33

dont you think I have basis to make that claim? NOPE! Remember, also, that schools cannot diagnose and cannot prescribe. Thus, there is NO basis for this tale. I think that the myth of teachers diagnosing ADHD and prescribing Ritalin has its source in an altogether different situation. Teachers usually are the first ones to point out the possibility of ADHD and any other Learning Difficulty (I don't like disability). The parents of these children have problem known the child was different from day one, but the situation only gets to the point that the child needs help once the child hits the school system and is faced with directives to follow and the need to pay attention and break up attention in order to follow the rest of the class. Therefore, the teacher will report the findings to the parents and suggest a course of action. Usually, where behavior issues are concerned, the first possible reason for the behavior the teacher will suggest because it is the disorder where there is the most information available. That is not the case where such disorders as CAPD, BPD and SI are concerned. If/when the situation gets really bad, the school administration will/might suggest and evaluation and they may suggest that meds are indicated. At this point, one of two things will happen: the parents will go ahead with the school suggestions and have an evaluation done. Or they will get in a huffy fit and say that the teacher, unrightfully, diagnosed ADHD and prescribed meds. Even if the parents go ahead with the evaluation and opt for meds, the perceived course of events could still be that the teacher diagnosed ADHD and forced the parents to opt for meds. Not in one of the cases enumerated above has ADHD been diagnosed by the teacher or anyone in the school. And the doctor prescribed meds, not the teacher. And it is unlikely that the school forced the parents to opt for meds though it certainly can feel that way when your child is being disciplined daily, sent home regularly, suspended, etc. etc. However, these measures are not really an indication that the school is forcing the parents to opt for meds, it is an indication that the school is ill-equipped to deal with the child and taking measures, in the hope of dealing, once and for all, with the behavior, but the measures are not effective at all. I guess you can tell it's Christmas break and I'm not having to deal with the schools, hence the detached and objective approach I can take, LOL!!

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Posted by wyn - 2008/05/10 06:33

So be careful ... get a second and third AND a psych evaluation. Be sure before you drug the problem into other problems. I think being careful and getting numerous opinions are wise and prudent moves. Personally, I suspect the truth lies somewhere in between the two positions here. I think Danielle and the others have many valid points we should not be so quick to dismiss. And from what I've seen of them, I do not think any of them have made a quick and hasty decision, or taken the easy way out. OTOH, I do understand your concern that as a society we are prone to quick fixes. That concerns me, too. In a way I guess I acknowledge that it is healthy to have this debate rage on. It assures me that there is a check to balance out things, for those who would reach for the quick fix. Unfortunately, such a person would be *highly* unlikely to spend time on Usenet reading this debate. jen * Sent from RemarQ <http://www.remarq.com> The Internet's Discussion Network * The fastest and easiest way to search and participate in Usenet - Free!

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by Shane - 2008/05/10 06:33

Mark Probert <markpr...@my-deja.com wrote in message Remember, also, that schools cannot diagnose and cannot prescribe. But that's where the first recommendations for ADHD come from... regardless of whether or not then can

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by wyn - 2008/05/10 06:33

D. C. & M. V. Sessions <d...@lumbercartel.com wrote in message Are you still having trouble keeping your story straight? First it was 30% ADHD. Then LD, then ADHD, now LD again. For some reason inconsistency seems to have a negative impact on credibility. Cheese and fudge and rice on corn flakes... Would you stop being so nitpicky. Just be an adult ok? You know what I was saying so knock it off. You're trying to make an issue where none exists You cannot cite data to support any of your statements. And yet you come back on your drug 'em kick. I just did... Read back thru a bit And quite a few people HAVE gone back through the archives and come up blank. Now it's possible that we're ALL wrong; since you seem to have no trouble finding those posts how about posting a message ID or two and then there'll be no room for doubt. (Or not; maybe you can't find them either.)

wyn posted the info.... WYN posted the info So in the words of Pink Floyd in one of the songs on the wall...
WRONG...Do it again * Sent from RemarQ <http://www.remarq.com> The Internet's Discussion Network * The fastest
and easiest way to search and participate in Usenet - Free!

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Posted by wyn - 2008/05/10 06:33

I dunno... seems like a nitpick question if you ask me. Are you suggesting she obtained her results illegally? Who cares - they may still be valid and accurate. Don't children take doses during the school day? Perhaps she polled the school nurses and asked them to report BLINDLY the number of pupils receiving such meds - not their names or medical records. All she'd need to know is quantity of students, by grade. Anyway, I'm sure her study won't be the last. Time will tell if it stands up to peer review. Btw, I read that the gov't of Canada is expected to do its own study along the same lines. A better question, I think, is what is the rate of students who continue to take these meds for years? Perhaps 8-10% of children are put on a trial for a month or two, but only 2-3% continue to take it over the long-term... because it works for them. jen * Sent from RemarQ <http://www.remarq.com> The Internet's Discussion Network * The fastest and easiest way to search and participate in Usenet - Free!

should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by Sabine - 2008/05/10 06:33

of whether or not then can

should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by John Palmer - 2008/05/10 06:33

Because you just dont like me? Because I make comments that question the decisions you've made? Are you being defensive or just argumentative? I'm asking for real here.... this is not a flame... this is real. I want to know what it is that makes you fight everything I say. Shane, you won't believe this. No one ever does. Nevertheless, I'm going to hope I'm wrong. People here have made comments that question the decisions you've made to hold certain beliefs. You're responding in a manner that can be classified (note: can be classified *DOES NOT* mean should be classified ; it means that one could decide, rightly or wrongly, that the classification is (whatever)) as defensive or just argumentative. Let's just pretend that Danielle is feeling that way, just for giggles. If we did pretend that, you'd still have to ask if there were dueling defensivenesses/argumentativenesses. As I said: I know you won't believe that. You'll refuse to admit that *YOU* could be maybe partially at fault. And I know you won't believe this (I wouldn't, in your position): I really would honestly like to be wrong.

should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by D. C. & M. V. Sessions - 2008/05/10 06:33

specific brain-related problem called ADHD, said LeFever, assistant professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the Center for Pediatric Research. The center is a joint program of Eastern Virginia Medical School and Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters. LeFever said there probably are regions across the country with similar trends, indicating more research is needed. That's a very high rate of ADHD, by anyone's estimate, said psychologist Nadine M. Lambert of the University of California at Berkeley, a longtime ADHD researcher who was not involved in the current study. In the study, researchers reviewed records of pupils enrolled in the second through fifth grades in Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. This line got my attention when the study first came out. The principal researcher is named LeFever and I wrote to her asking just how she was able to secure consent from 30,000 parents to do this study, how she controlled for those who did not want their kids records to be used for such a study, etc. I have written her FOUR times. The fifth is due on January 5. I would be happy with **any** answer. Her silence speaks loudly. What is SHE hiding? Mark, this is exactly the kind of point that the letters column of journals should be used to raise. You **have** written to the journal where this was published, haven't you? It **was** published in a peer-reviewed journal (sudden doubt: all we see are the popular media versions),

wasn't it?

should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by D.Chenier - 2008/05/10 06:33

Personally, I suspect the truth lies somewhere in between the two positions here. I think Danielle and the others have many valid points we should not be so quick to dismiss. And from what I've seen of them, I do not think any of them have made a quick and hasty decision, or taken the easy way out. OTOH, I do understand your concern that as a society we are prone to quick fixes. That concerns me, too. In a way I guess I acknowledge that it is healthy to have this debate rage on. It assures me that there is a check to balance out things, for those who would reach for the quick fix. Just one thing I would like to point out: because Ritalin is dubbed as a magic drug by the media, parents who opt for meds expect a marked, almost miraculous improvement. One of the hardest things to deal with is the criticism about opting for meds and the realization that meds are not a quick fix and there is still so much work ahead for us. Granted, the meds make the work a little easier, just like cold meds make breathing easier, but it isn't the easy road we expected it to be.

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Posted by D.Chenier - 2008/05/10 06:33

letters & numbers, singing songs..etc..I personally think we will see the signs of ADHD long before a teacher ever gets ahold of them. Now, *this* really is just an opinion. Even when my son was an infant, it was obvious that he was different : he didn't sleep as much as other infants, he was a lot more active, a lot more demanding, he didn't even eat as much as other kids. However, at the same time, it was obvious that he was way ahead in some areas of other infants, so we just put it down to being bored, to developing physically instead of intellectually, until he started whole word recognition at 2 yo, then we thought, oh well, he's just developing faster. We thought it was phases, that he would outgrow them. The real problems started in day care. By the time he turned 4 yo, he'd been thrown out of 2 in-home daycares. When he was 5 yo, he was being threatened with being thrown out of the formal day-care, however school started and it became a non-issue. K was relatively OK. At the end of 1st grade was when the real trouble started and by the time he started 2nd grade things got out of hand. So, while it is true that it was obvious, very early on, that my son was not like others, day-care and school was where it became obvious that it was not only a matter of being different, that it was a matter of having problems. In my nephew's case, things were different. He's never been as active as my son, always was a good baby: good sleeper, good eater. However, when he started the 2nd grade, it became obvious that there also were problems: he's easily distractable, has a hard time finishing tasks, has a tendency to easily forget what he's learn, he has problems concentrating. It turns out that he also has ADHD, inattentive subtype. The type of ADHD without the H. In his case, there truly was nothing to show that there was a problem until he started school. However, once the problems were identified in school, his parents realized that there had also been signs at home: the tendency to forget what he starts out to do, the distractibility, the hyperfocus, the slow poke syndrom. I hope this illustrates Mark's point that school is usually the first place where problems are identified, even when the problems are there all along.

should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by Chris Leithiser - 2008/05/10 06:33

Your 30% ADHD figure has been demolished. No... the fact still remains that our school has that 30% LD rate The fact is that you asserted first that your school

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Posted by Chris Leithiser - 2008/05/10 06:33

Oh and I forgot... there was also a post about a book to read... but that was a while back and my news reader doesn't archive it... I'm sure you could find it by going thru Deja

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by Me - 2008/05/10 06:33

the brain theroy is supported. Your 30% ADHD figure has been demolished. No... the fact still remains that our school has that 30% LD rate The fact is that you asserted first that your school

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by D.Chenier - 2008/05/10 06:33

DEA, same as cocain. True or false? True, however, there is no evidence that Ritalin, when taken as prescribed, is addictive. Cocain is VERY addictive. I think it was put there because of all the hype about Ritalin.

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by Me - 2008/05/10 06:33

is addictive. Cocain is VERY addictive. I think it was put there because of all the hype about Ritalin.

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by EmmaAnne - 2008/05/10 06:33

I dont know about you, but everyone within 200 yards of my little brother knew he had a problem well before he was even school age. If we are spending time with our 2,3,4 & 5 year olds - reading to them, teaching them letters & numbers, singing songs..etc..I personally think we will see the signs of ADHD long before a teacher ever gets ahold of them. Now, *this* really is just an opinion. I think you are right in that a conscious parent knows his kid and her problems (pronouns chosen to differentiate!). But - he may not realize that what he is seeing is out of the range of normal, for a couple of reasons. First, ADD runs in families. If his daughter acts like he did as a child, or like his sister did, it might seem normal. Second, most parents only have close, intimate knowledge of their own children. If she (say) has temper tantrums, well, you hear about lots of kids having temper tantrums. How do you know that this child is having them frequently enough, and they are destructive enough, that it ought to be looked into? Finally, we love our children so much that we don't *want* to think anything could be wrong. They are wonderful just the way they are, and the world ought to adapt to them, we think. Now the teacher, on the other hand, is around lots of children the same age as the little girl in question. The teacher can spot that the child's behavior really is notably out of line for her age group. And she doesn't have the same investment in thinking that this little girl is the most wonderful, perfect kid in the world. :-)

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by EmmaAnne - 2008/05/10 06:33

Thanks for the info. Re: addiction, what happens when a person stops taking Ritalin? Do they get withdrawal symptoms like when you stop coke or can you stop taking it whenever you want? Most of us forget to take it on a fairly regular basis (we *do* have ADD after all!) and the only affect is to be back to full ADD strength. However, some people do have a rebound effect - they are especially wild as the Ritalin wears off. I haven't heard of cravings or real withdrawal symptoms - anyone else?

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by wyn - 2008/05/10 06:33

Hi - RE: Ritalin and addiction - here's what I discovered; the truth on this one appears to be halfway in between: Ritalin is believed to be as addictive as Cocaine. Studies show that it has the same effect on the brain. HOWEVER - and this is a big however - the studies *injected* the substances into mice. But Ritalin is taken in pill form, not injected. To be of any real merit, the study should have compared snorting cocaine to ingesting Ritalin, versus injecting both. Apparently, if you inject caffeine into your bloodstream (versus drinking it) caffeine will also have the same effect as Cocaine. So the conclusion is that yes, Ritalin is similar to Cocaine (as is coffee) but since you take it in pill form and don't snort or inject it, in actual practice it's probably more like caffeine. I have no personal experience though, so I couldn't tell you. Apparently some researchers think there is a greater risk that untreated ADHDers will self-medicate with a drug like cocaine. jen * Sent from RemarQ <http://www.remarq.com> The Internet's Discussion Network * The fastest and easiest way to search and participate in Usenet - Free!

should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by John Palmer - 2008/05/10 06:33

I heard that Ritalin is classified as a Class II addictive narcotic by the DEA, same as cocaine. True or false? True, but misleading when stated that way. Schedule II (not class II) substances are not judged by scientific research, but by the opinion of the DEA about the risk of diversion. Cocaine is there (for its use in solution as a topical anesthetic - it is a potent painkiller and if you ever have, say, a polyp removed from your nose, you'll be grateful that it's there!) because it has a medical use (as mentioned) and so are the opiates, etc. (Morphine, codeine, etc.), but all are considered at high risk of diversion. Marijuana, which is not currently prescribable for anything under federal (note: *NOT* state!) rules is Schedule I, which is the 'just plain illegal' classification. (I think the schedules go up to 5; each higher schedule has looser restrictions than the one before.) So, what Ritalin being on schedule II means is 1) the DEA (note: not the FDA, who studies 'drug science', sorta kinda) thinks it's useful but at high risk of theft and illegal sale, 2) there are restrictions on transferring it (from pharmacy to purchaser, from factory to warehouse, etc.) and 3) there is a quota imposed by the DEA on the manufacture (and import, IIRC) of methylphenidate.

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Posted by Chris Leithiser - 2008/05/10 06:33

I heard that Ritalin is classified as a Class II addictive narcotic by the DEA, same as cocaine. True or false? Ritalin is classified as a Schedule II drug by the DEA (which is not a medical agency). So is cocaine. They are both in the same group because they both have medical uses, but the DEA considers them to have abuse potential. Your point? That because they're in the same group, they are the same drug? They are interchangeable? I heard that Christianity and Satanism are both considered religions. Are they interchangeable? My personal feeling is that ritalin should not be Schedule II. The DEA, for political reasons, disagrees.

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Posted by Chris Leithiser - 2008/05/10 06:33

Thanks for the info. Re: addiction, what happens when a person stops taking Ritalin? Do they get withdrawal symptoms like when you stop coke or can you stop taking it whenever you want? Nope. You do not get withdrawal symptoms. In fact, it is quite common for ADHD patients to forget to take the drugs

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Posted by Larry McMahan - 2008/05/10 06:33

hamilton (hamil...@dnvln.com) writes: : I have always read that the immunological benefits of nursing drop : dramatically after the first year for the reasons you mention. There : isn't apparently any : evidence benefits after a year or so. I am sorry I did not keep the cite, but just this week I saw the summary of a 1996 study which dealt with the size of the thalamus. The thalamus has been associated with the body's ability to produce antibodies, and the study

showed that the thalamus remained larger in breastfed babies for up to more than two years, and that when the babies weaned before that time, the thalamus would shrink to a smaller size. Granted that this isn't direct evidence of increased immunity, but it does provide indirect evidence of the body's ability to produce greater disease fighting capabilities in breastfed babies beyond one year. Larry

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Posted by D.Chenier - 2008/05/10 06:33

stop taking it whenever you want? Most of us forget to take it on a fairly regular basis (we *do* have ADD after all!) and the only affect is to be back to full ADD strength. However, some people do have a rebound effect - they are especially wild as the Ritalin wears off. I haven't heard of cravings or real withdrawal symptoms - anyone else? There have been days when my son either refused to take his meds or forgot to do so. His experience was the same as yours: no withdrawal symptoms, however, back to full blown ADHD symptoms. The rebound is not a withdrawal effect, it is just the effect of the meds stopping to work.

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by D.Chenier - 2008/05/10 06:33

be some sort of LD. This is another comment that is completely irrelevant. BEFORE a neuro-psych evaluation is done, a physical evaluation is done. This physical evaluation includes, among other things, checking hearing and eyesight. If glasses are needed, then glasses are recommended!!! FWIW, in my son's case and my nephew's case, problems with hearing, auditory processing and eyesight were addressed, and proper measures were applied, BEFORE the ADHD diagnosis was made. My nephew had severe, and almost continuous, ear infections as an infant and toddler and was given multiple doses of antibiotics (how's that for abuse!!), and eventually ended up being almost deaf. Clearing his ears has meant an improvement in his capacity to hear what is said and has improved, slightly, his attention. The same goes for obtaining glasses. However, one of the problems is the very fact that, like me, he keeps misplacing his glasses. In my son's case, CAPD, and Auditory Processing Disorder, was diagnosed 2 years before ADHD was diagnosed. Ensuring that he is seated in the front of the class and that he does hear, and comprehend, what is said helps with attention. However, in both my son's and my nephew's cases, addressing some of the physical problems is NOT a solution to the other problems caused by ADHD. Again, if the evaluation does not include ruling out other problems or at least addressing them (as in my son's and nephew's cases, addressing the issues have not meant ruling ADHD - it is called co-morbidity), then the evaluation is not complete. While the physicians doing the evaluation should ensure that all other issues are also addressed, you have to keep in mind that doing hearing and eye sight exams is not usually part of a neuro-psych exam. Parents have to ensure that these exams are also done. Shane, please stop blaming the system for these issues and realize that 5 to 10 % of the population have, truly have, ADHD!!!

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should my toddler have an eye exam ADHD (was: Sleep solutions)

Posted by D.Chenier - 2008/05/10 06:33

stop taking it whenever you want? One of the biggest vent I read about in ADHD groups is about forgetting, again, to take the meds. Ritalin can be, and regularly is, stopped, cold turkey, with absolutely no withdrawal symptoms. The only problem is the re-apperance of the full-blown ADHD symptoms. My 8 yo son often forgets or refuses to take his meds, with no side effects, cravings, or anything. And it is very easy to resume the meds, without having to work up to it as it is the case with other meds.

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