

## **ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDERS**

### **ADHD SYMPTOMS ASSOCIATED WITH MILD COGNITIVE DELAY**

The relationship between ADHD symptoms and mild intellectual disability (ID) was investigated and compared to subjects with average ability, in a study at King's College London, Institute of Psychiatry, UK. In a total of 192 subjects included in the analysis, there was a negative linear relationship between ADHD symptoms and IQ ( $P < 0.001$ ). ADHD symptoms are increased in children with ID, and the mean IQ of children with hyperkinetic disorder is 15 to 16 points below those without hyperactivity. The findings were not explained by inappropriate rater expectations or comorbidity with emotional/behavioral problems. (Simonoff E, Pickles A, Wood N et al. ADHD symptoms in children with mild intellectual disability. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry* May 2007;46:591-600). (Respond: Dr Emily Simonoff, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Box 85, King's College London, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF, UK).

COMMENT. ADHD is likely to be more common in children with mild intellectual disability.

### **RISPERIDONE FOR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN ADHD**

The effects of risperidone augmentation for treatment-resistant aggression in children with ADHD were evaluated in a placebo-controlled pilot study at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, FL. The mean risperidone dose at endpoint was 1.08 mg/day. Of 25 subjects entered in the study, 15 were receiving methylphenidate and 10 were receiving mixed salts amphetamine. After addition of risperidone, 100% improved by more than 30 points on the Children's Aggression Scale-Parent total score (CAS-P) from baseline to week 4, whereas only 77% of the placebo group reported a similar response ( $P < 0.05$ ). No differences were reported on the CAS-Teacher total score. No patient discontinued treatment because of adverse events. Abdominal pain occurred in 25% of risperidone group and 7.7% of placebo group. (Armenteros JL, Lewis JE, Davalos M. Risperidone augmentation for treatment-resistant aggression in attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: a placebo-controlled pilot study. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry* May 2007;46:558-565). (Reprints: Dr Jorge Armenteros, 2199 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 304, Coral Gables, FL 33134).

COMMENT. Risperidone may be an effective add-on therapy for stimulant resistant aggression in children with ADHD. Personally, I refer patients with significant aggressive symptoms to my colleagues in psychiatry or psychology. For neurologists and pediatricians who also treat psychiatric comorbidities in their ADHD patients, this article should be of interest. Aggression may be precipitated or exacerbated by stimulant medication in some ADHD patients.

The importance of adjunctive behavior treatment, coordinated between home and school, is stressed in a discussion of the pharmacotherapy of aggression with ADHD. (Findling RL et al. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry* May 2007;46:653-658).