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**COMMENT.** In this study conducted only in boys, inattentive behavior is a developmental risk factor for impairment of general cognitive functioning, poor reading and language skills, and a low self-esteem in school. In contrast to boys with hyperactivity and combined ADHD, pure inattentive behavior is not associated with increased susceptibility to conduct problems or disturbed family relationships. Early recognition of ADD-inattentive subtype should allow prompt interventional treatment. Although boys outnumber girls with a 4:1 ratio for ADHD-HI subtype, the sex ratio is lower (2:1) for the ADHD-Inattentive type. Inattentiveness is relatively more prevalent among girls with ADHD, and any sex-related cognitive and social risk factors would be of interest.

#### **Parent-rated psychosocial correlates in preschool ADHD children.**

In a study of 25 children with ADHD (21 males, 4 females; mean age 4.8 years), compared to 25 normal controls, at the IWK-Grace Health Centre, Halifax, Canada, parents rated their ADHD children as significantly more aggressive, more demanding, less socially skilled, and less compliant. In contrast, the children perceived themselves as equally competent and as socially accepted as their peers. The parents viewed themselves as less competent parents. (DeWolfe NA, Byrne JM, Bawden HN. ADHD in preschool children: parent-rated psychosocial correlates. *Dev Med Child Neurol* Dec 2000;42:825-830). Presumably, these children had ADHD-combined type. No distinction of subtypes was made.

#### **MAGNETIC BRAIN STIMULATION IN ADHD**

Transcranial magnetic brain stimulation was performed in 27 children and adolescents, aged 4 to 18 years, with ADHD in the Services of Pediatric Neurology and Clinical Neurophysiology, Miguel Servet Hospital, Zaragoza, Spain. The motor evoked potential was recorded at the biceps brachii. Central motor conduction time mean value, calculated by cervical root stimulation, was very significantly increased ( $P<0.001$ ) compared to normal controls. The finding reflects a delay in the maturation of the corticomotor-neuronal system. A side-to-side difference in the central motor conduction times in the ADHD group ( $P=.03$ ) suggests an hemispheric asymmetry in maturation. (Ucles P, Serrano J-L, Rosa F. Central conduction time of magnetic brain stimulation in attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. *J Child Neurol* Nov 2000;15:723-728). (Respond: Dr Paulino Ucles, Almagro, 11 7-B, E-50004 Zaragoza, Spain).

**COMMENT.** Central motor conduction time in ADHD measured by transcranial magnetic brain stimulation may provide assistance in diagnosis and evidence supporting the theory of delayed cerebral maturation.

### **SEIZURE DISORDERS**

#### **BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS ANTEDATING EPILEPSY ONSET**

The prevalence and nature of behavior problems among 224 children (ages 4 to 14 years) with epilepsy, in the six month period before the first recognized seizure, were studied at the Indiana School of Nursing, Indianapolis. Compared to their 135 healthy siblings, children with seizures had a higher than expected rate of antecedent behavior problems, with 32% in the clinical or at-risk range. Those with previous events suggestive of seizures had a 39% risk of behavior disorders before the first recognized seizure occurred. Children with seizures, especially