Are ADHD medications under or over prescribed worldwide?
Protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis
Carlos Renato Moreira-Maia, MD, PhD\textsuperscript{a,∗}, Rafael Massuti\textsuperscript{b}, Luca Tessari, MD, PhD\textsuperscript{b}, Fausto Campani\textsuperscript{a}, Glaucia Chiyoko Akutagava-Martins, MD, PhD\textsuperscript{a,c}, Samuele Cortese, MD, PhD\textsuperscript{b,\textsuperscript{d,\textsuperscript{e,\textsuperscript{f}}}}, Luis Augusto Rohde, MD, PhD\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{g,\textsuperscript{h}}}

Abstract
Introduction: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a common neurodevelopmental disorder, characterized by age inappropriate and impairing levels of inattention and/or hyperactivity/impulsivity. Pharmacotherapy is an important part of the ADHD multimodal treatment. The extent to which ADHD is pharmaceutically over or under treated worldwide is controversial. We aimed to estimate the pooled worldwide rate of ADHD pharmacological treatment in individuals with and without the disorder.

Method and Analysis: We will include published or unpublished studies reporting the rates of ADHD pharmacological treatment in participants with and without ADHD of any age group. Population-based, cohort, or follow-up studies, as well as data from insurance health system and third-party reimbursements will be eligible. Searches will be performed in a large number of electronic databases, including Medline, Embase, CINAHL, Cochrane, PsycINFO, Web of Science, and Scopus. The primary outcome will be the prevalence of ADHD pharmacological treatment in individuals with ADHD and without ADHD. Two independent reviewers will perform the screening, and data extraction process. Study quality/bias will be assessed with the Newcastle–Ottawa scale by 2 independent reviewers. To test the robustness of the findings, we will perform a series of sensitivity and meta-regression analyses. Analyses will be performed with R and STATA software.

Ethics and Dissemination: No IRB approval will be necessary. The results of this systematic review and meta-analysis will be presented at international conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals.

Registration and Status: PROSPERO 2018 CRD42018085233.

Abbreviations: ADHD = Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, ADHD-NOS = Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, ADHD-U = Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Unspecified, DSM = Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, GP = general practitioner, HKD = hyperkinetic disorder, ICD = International Classification of Diseases, IQ = intelligence quotient, IRB = Institutional Review Board, MOOSE = Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology, NICE = National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, NOS = Newcastle–Ottawa scale, NS-CSHCN = National Survey of Children with

Competing interests: CRMM has received financial research support from Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) and Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq); development of educational materials for Libib, Novartis, and Pfizer; has received travel and accommodation support for a speaker training and participated in the development of a cell phone appplicate for Shire; has received travel, accommodation and registration support to the fourth and fifth World Congress on ADHD from the World Federation of ADHD.

LAR has been a member of the speakers’ bureau/advisory board and/or acted as a consultant for Eli-Lilly, Janssen-Cilag, Medice, Novartis, and Shire in the last 3 years. He receives authorship royalties from Oxford Press and ArfMed. The ADHD and Juvenile Bipolar Disorder Outpatient Programs chaired by him received unrestricted educational and research support from the following pharmaceutical companies in the last 3 years: Eli-Lilly, Janssen-Cilag, Novartis, and Shire. He received travel grants from Shire and Novartis for attending the WFADHD 2015 and 2016 AACAP meetings. He also receives research support from Brazilian government institutions (CNPq, FAPERGS, HCPA, and CAPES).

GCAM has received financial research support from CNPq.
RM, LT, FC, and SC have no competing interests.

Supplemental Digital Content is available for this article.

∗ADHD Outpatient Program (PRODAH), Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 1Department of Psychology, Centre for Innovation in Mental Health, University of Southampton, Clinical and Experimental Sciences (CNS and Psychiatry), University of Southampton, 2College of Medicine, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso, Cuiabá, Brazil, 3Solent NHS Trust, Southampton, UK, 4New York University Child Study Center, New York, NY, 5Division of Psychiatry and Applied Psychology, School of Medicine, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, 6National Institute of Developmental Psychiatry for Children and Adolescents, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Correspondence: Carlos Renato Moreira-Maia, Outpatient Program (PRODAH), Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Rua Ramiro Barcelos, 2350—4th floor, Porto Alegre, RS 90035-903, Brazil (e-mail:crm.maia@gmail.com).

Copyright © 2018 the Author(s). Published by Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc.
This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 (CCBY), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Medicine (2018) 97:24(e10923)
Received: 5 May 2018 / Accepted: 9 May 2018
https://doi.org/10.1097/MD.00000000000010923
1. Introduction

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), one of the most common neurodevelopmental disorders, is characterized, as per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition,\(^\text{[1]}\) by an age inappropriate and impairing pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity/impulsivity. The ADHD worldwide prevalence is estimated at around 5% and 2.5% in children/adolescents and adults, respectively.\(^\text{[2–5]}\) Hyperkinetic disorder (HKD) as per the International Classification of Diseases, tenth edition\(^\text{[6]}\) is a more restrictive syndrome, requiring symptoms and impairment in both the inattention and hyperactivity-impulsivity domains, thus roughly equivalent to DSM-5 ADHD combined presentation. Its prevalence is estimated at around 2%.\(^\text{[6]}\)

Pharmacotherapy is part of the multimodal therapeutic strategy for ADHD and it is recommended as the first-line option in the most commonly used guidelines/practice parameters,\(^\text{[7–9]}\) at least for severe cases,\(^\text{[10]}\) or as a treatment strategy for patients who have not responded to nonpharmacological interventions.\(^\text{[10,11]}\) Medications for ADHD include psychostimulant (e.g., methylphenidate and amphetamines) and non-psychostimulant drugs (e.g., atomoxetine or guanfacine).

Currently, there is a controversy as to whether ADHD is under or over diagnosed\(^\text{[12]}\) and, related to this, if it is under or over treated with medications. Indeed, evidence from several countries shows that there has been an increase, over the last decades, in the prescription rate of ADHD medications.\(^\text{[11–16]}\) However, to what extent the increase in prescription rates can be considered an “overprescribing” phenomenon remains to be elucidated.\(^\text{[12]}\)

Additionally, regardless of the possible increased prescription rate, it is not clear to which extent all individuals with ADHD, who would benefit from a pharmacological treatment of ADHD, indeed receive prescriptions of ADHD medications. Considering that some guidelines such as the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) only recommend a pharmacological treatment for the most severe form of ADHD (i.e., HKD),\(^\text{[17]}\) prescription rates of ADHD medications would be expected at minimum around 2%. On the one hand, prescription rates higher than the worldwide prevalence of a more flexible ADHD definition, i.e. the DSM definition (5.9%–7.1%)\(^\text{[18]}\) would necessarily indicate an overtreatment, with possible unnecessary side effects. On the other hand, prescription rates lower than the prevalence of ADHD according to the more conservative ICD (International Classification of Diseases) definition (2%) would suggest that a portion of patients with ADHD are not benefitting from potentially useful medications. Indeed, ADHD may result in serious consequences if left untreated. Children and adolescents might present a 1.53 risk of being unintentionally uninjured than controls.\(^\text{[19]}\) Similarly, the risk for car accidents for ADHD licensed drivers was found to be 1.36 times higher than for non-ADHD.\(^\text{[20]}\) As a consequence, the disorder is associated with a mortality rate of 5.85 per 10,000 person-years, mostly caused by accidents, whereas the rate in nonaffected subjects is around 2.21 per 10,000 person-years.\(^\text{[21]}\) Evidences show that the pharmacological treatment for ADHD can positively impact patients’ lives. Regular treatment can lower the risk of substance use among hyperactive/impulsive and combined subtypes,\(^\text{[22]}\) as well as the risk of car accidents,\(^\text{[23,24]}\) unintentional injuries, emergency department visits,\(^\text{[25]}\) depression,\(^\text{[26]}\) and suicide.\(^\text{[27]}\) The medication can also benefit school work, classroom behavior,\(^\text{[28]}\) and reduce rates of criminality.\(^\text{[29]}\)

Therefore, addressing the question: “is ADHD under or over treated worldwide?” is a major public health need. To our knowledge, no systematic review with meta-analysis has been conducted to estimate the pooled rates of ADHD medications prescription worldwide. We aimed to fill this important gap in the literature. Here, we present the protocol of this systematic review/meta-analysis.

2. Objectives

The overarching aim of this systematic review and meta-analysis is to estimate the worldwide prevalence of ADHD pharmacological treatment. We aimed to address the following primary questions: What is the prevalence of individuals with ADHD receiving and not receiving pharmacological treatment? What is the prevalence of individuals without ADHD receiving and not receiving ADHD treatment? Is there any significant difference in the rates of ADHD pharmacological treatment worldwide? In addition, we also aimed to address the following secondary questions: Are ADHD patients receiving doses of medications as recommended in international guidelines? What is the prevalence of individuals treated with ADHD medications for 3 or more weeks? We choose this time length based on the minimum time of response and efficacy\(^\text{[30]}\) to treatment in clinical trials.

3. Method

The proposed systematic review and meta-analysis will be developed in accordance with the recommendations of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA),\(^\text{[31]}\) and the Meta-Analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE).\(^\text{[32]}\) This protocol has been registered in the International Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO), ID: CRD42018085233.\(^\text{[33]}\)

3.1. Eligibility criteria

3.1.1. Types of studies. We will include published and unpublished population-based, cohort, or follow-up studies (independent of the length of treatment). Data from insurance health system and third-party reimbursements will also be eligible. For longitudinal studies, we will include data from the first wave, when available, or at the earliest time point. Randomized and nonrandomized clinical trials and studies only reporting prevalence or prescription rate of ADHD treatments without an ADHD diagnosis will be excluded.

3.1.2. Population. Individuals from all age groups (children [< 12 years], adolescents [≥12 year and < 18 years], and adults [≥18 years]) with a primary diagnosis of ADHD, ADHD-NOS (not otherwise specified), and ADHD-U (unspecified) or HKD determined as follows: categorical diagnosis as per DSM-III.\(^\text{[34]}\)
3.2. Information sources and search method

Searches will be performed by a health Librarian at the University of Southampton, UK, who will work along with the authors to develop the search strategy. The search will be performed on the following databases using the same keywords and amending the Subject Heading as appropriate: Medline, Embase, CINAHL, Psychnfo, Web of Science, and Scopus. (The detailed individual search strategies and syntax for each database are reported in Supplemental Digital Content 3, http://links.lww.com/MD/C286). The Pubmed syntax used will be: (minimal brain disorder OR minimal brain dysfunction OR overactive child syndrome) OR adhd OR ADHD or addh OR ADD OR attention deficit (disorder* OR syndrome*) (hyperactiv* OR hyperkinetic*) OR (MH “Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity” AND (Amphetamine* OR Amfetamine* OR Dextroamphetamine* OR Dexamphetamine* OR “Mixed amphetamine salts” OR Lisdexamfetamine* OR Methylpheni-date OR Atomoxetine OR Clonidine OR guanfacine OR stimulant* OR psychostimulant* OR Elvanse OR Venvanse OR Adderall OR Dextedrine OR Dextrostat OR Vyvanse OR ProCentra OR Dyanavel OR Evekeo OR Zenzedi OR Desoxyn OR Metadate OR Concerta OR Daytrana OR Ritalin OR Methylin OR Quillivant OR Focalin OR Biphentin OR Phenida OR Ritalina OR Hylniade OR Addwize OR Inspiral OR Attenade OR Medikinet OR Equisym OR Penid OR Tranquylin OR Rubifen OR Aptensio OR Strattera OR Tomoxetin OR Attentrol OR Azeptra OR Atozen OR Attentin OR Kapvay OR Intuniv) OR (pharmacological treatment* OR drug* treatment* OR pharmacotherapy OR psychotropic drug* OR medicat* OR [MH Psychotropic Drugs]) AND (cohort n (study or studies)) OR “cohort analy*” OR (follow up n (study or studies)) OR (observational n (study or studies)) OR longitudinal OR retrospective OR epidemiological n (study or studies) OR (“cross section” n (study or studies)) OR “cross sectional” OR “full follow up” OR [MH Health Care Surveys]) AND (incidence OR prevalence or occur* OR frequen* OR proportion* OR rate* OR number* OR percent* OR episode* OR epidemiolo* OR distribut* OR demograph* OR survey* OR trend*) AND [MSH “Epidemiologic Methods”] OR [MSG “Incidence”] OR [MSH “Prevalence”] OR [MSH “Demography”] OR [MSH Epidemiology]).

3.2.1. Additional database searching. Using only keywords, the following databases will be searched as part of the University of Southampton EBSCO Discovery Portal (for more information on these sources: http://library.soton.ac.uk/resources); Business Source Premier; Research Starters; Scielo; AMED; Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews; PsycArticles; Teacher Reference Centre; Eprints Soton; British Library Ethos; Science Citation Index; Social Sciences Citation Index; Science Direct; O’Aster; ERIC; SocIndex with Full text; Sports Discuss; Repec; Green File; PsycCRITIQUES. We will also search 25 additional sources (List of websites are in Supplemental Digital Content 4, http://links.lww.com/MD/C286). For this search, the following keywords will be used: “ADHD,” “prevalence,” “survey,” “trend,” “pharmacological,” “medication,” “epidemiology,” “attention deficit,” where only simple searches could be undertaken. We will not use any language or date restrictions.

3.2.2. Other sources. We will hand-search the reference list of papers selected for full text reading. Similarly, we will perform a manual search in the reference list of systematic reviews and meta-analysis on ADHD treatment retrieved in the electronic...
search. In addition, we will contact each first study author of retained studies and experts in the field and we will search the ProQuest database of theses and dissertations in order to reach information of ongoing and/or unpublished studies.

3.3. Identification and selection of studies

3.3.1. Data management. After the search process, all abstracts will be uploaded to Covidence software (https://www.covidence.org/). Two independent reviewers (LT and RM) will conduct the screening of titles and abstracts. Selected titles will have the full text included for a careful reading by 3 independent reviewers (GCAM, LT, and RM), thus ensuring that the study really fulfill the inclusion criteria. In this process, a third experienced researcher (CRMM) will evaluate and resolve any disagreement in the process whenever is necessary.

3.3.2. Data collection process. Each study will be stored in Google Drive, which will contain one or more pdf files (depending on the number of publications for each study) and a data extraction sheet. Independent reviewers working in pairs (LT and RM) will conduct and compare the data extraction sheets. Discrepancies in the process will be resolved between the 2 reviewers. In case of no consensus, 3 senior researchers (CRMM, LAR, and SC) will resolve the disagreement in the process. At this phase, authors from the selected studies will be contacted for additional information or clarification whenever necessary. After 3 failed attempts to contact the authors via e-mail, the study will be discarded.

Studies reported in more than one publication will be identified as one entrance, and we will provide an appropriate description in the text. In these cases, the preference will follow this order: the first publication of the study, the largest sample size, and the most complete data.

Reviewers will collect a pilot sample of 10 studies in order to test the integrity of the process of collecting and analysing the data.

To assure the integrity of the data collection process, 2 independent reviewers (CRMM and GCAM) will transfer the data from extraction sheets to Excel tables, which will pass by a double-conference process. Discrepancies in this process will be resolved between the 2 reviewers.

3.4. Data extraction

The following information will be extracted:

1. Study: Author, year of publication, country, continent, year of data collection, name, if any, given to the sample (e.g., 2009–2010 National Survey of Children with Special Care Needs, NS-CSHCN), and study design.
2. Patient: age range, age mean, gender (n and %), method of diagnosis (physician/documented by caregivers), diagnostic criteria (DSM/ICD), comorbidities (% and type), co-medication, name of diagnostic questionnaire and rating scale (if described in the paper), socioeconomic status, level of care (primary, secondary, or tertiary).
3. Intervention: medication class and formulation, dose range, mean dose (reported as mg/kg/day, or mg/day), and length of treatment (reported in days, weeks, or years).
4. Primary outcomes: the total number of participants with ADHD, ADHD-NOS, ADHD-U and non-ADHD diagnosis receiving and not receiving ADHD pharmacological treatment, number of participants without any ADHD diagnosis receiving and not receiving ADHD pharmacological treatment.

5. Descriptive information: type of diagnosis (based on diagnostic questionnaire, rating scale, answering questions similar to “does any doctor has diagnosed you [or your familiar] with ADHD?,” and records from medical files or registers of health care agencies), the presence of comorbidities, Type (stimulant/nonstimulant) and the generic name of medication (Dexamphetamine, Dexamphetamine, Lisdexamphetamine, Mixed Salts Amphetamine, Methylphenidate Immediate and Extended Release, Atomoxetine), and level of care (primary, secondary or tertiary).

3.5. Assessing of study quality

We will use a modified version of the Newcastle–Ottawa scale (NOS),[41] which is one of the most used methods to evaluate study quality of nonrandomized studies, as described in the Cochrane Handbook.[42] With reference to a modified version used elsewhere,[43] we will use the first 2 domains for the selection of the study groups and the comparability of the groups, as the third domain (exposure) does not fit for systematic reviews of prevalence studies. All four subitems from the selection domain can be rated 0 up to 1 point, whereas the comparability can be rated 0 up to 2 points. In total, each study can receive a minimum of zero (low quality, high risk of bias) to a maximum of six points (high quality, low risk of bias) (Supplemental Digital Content 5, http://links.lww.com/MD/C286).

Two authors will independently access and score individually each study included. In a second step, results will be compared and in case of discordances without agreement, a third author (CRMM) will act as an arbitrator.

3.6. Data synthesis

The authors will present a qualitative synthesis of data collected, a PRISMA flowchart, and tables. Additionally, the results of the meta-analysis and meta-regression analysis, if feasible, will be presented in the main text, forest plots and tables, respectively.

To deal with incomplete or missing data, we will contact study authors to ask for additional information. However, to avoid zero cases, the Cochrane Collaboration-recommended approach of including 0.5 will be applied.[42]

Meta-analysis of odds ratios (OR) will be performed with the Meta package of R software, and normality tests will be accomplished. If feasible, results will be presented as adjusted and unadjusted ORs. We will first perform normality tests with the study rates, using Log, Logit, and Freeman-Tukey Double Arcsine transformation.[44] Next, according to the distribution rate of normality tests, the best estimation method will be chosen and the Metaprop function will compute the independent prevalence rate and 95% confidence interval. As heterogeneity between the selected studies is expected, we will conduct a meta-analysis with the DerSimonian and Laird method of random-effect model[45] using the pooled prevalence of pharmacological treated and untreated ADHD subjects. Heterogeneity between studies in the meta-analysis will be evaluated with the Cochran’s chi-squared test (Cochran’s Q), and the I2 where the interpretation is the following: [46]

- 30%–60%: may represent moderate heterogeneity
- 50%–90%: may represent substantial heterogeneity
- 75%–100%: substantial heterogeneity.
Publication bias will be explored through the visual inspection of the funnel plot asymmetry, and Egger’s linear regression test.\(^{[47]}\)

### 3.6.1. Exploring sources of heterogeneity

To explore the effect of individual studies in the prevalence rate and in heterogeneity, we will use the jackknife sensitivity analysis. The jackknife method is a usual procedure in the meta-analysis to test the stability of the results. The procedure is done by computing the results of the meta-analysis removing a different study at a time and then repeating the analyses.\(^{[48]}\)

In addition, we will conduct a random-effects meta-regression analysis using the pooled prevalence of ADHD pharmacological treatment of ADHD subjects. The covariates to be used will be: continent where the study was performed, age group (children, adolescents, and adults), method of diagnosis (diagnostic instrument, answering questions similar to “did any doctor diagnose you [or your relative] with ADHD?,” or a clinical diagnosis established by a doctor: GP (general practitioner), pediatrician, or a psychiatrist), diagnostic criteria (any version of DSM or ICD), class of pharmacological treatment (stimulant/nonstimulant), level of care (primary, secondary or tertiary), and study quality (rating at the Newcastle Ottawa Scale). The meta-regression analysis will be conducted with R and STATA 13.0 software.

### 4. Ethics and dissemination

This is a systematic review and meta-analysis; therefore, no IRB (Institutional Review Board) approvals will be necessary. The competing interests are reported in the appropriate item, where all the authors stated their conflict of interests. The results of this study will be published in peer-reviewed journals, and conferences.

### Author contributions

CRMM conceived the study and drafted the protocol. RM, LT, GCAM, FG, SC, and LAR, contributed to the protocol design. CRMM and SC conceived the search strategy. All authors contributed to the development of inclusion and exclusion criteria. All authors read, contributed, and approved the final manuscript.

**Conceptualization:** Carlos Renato Moreira-Maia, Samuele Cortese, Luís Augusto Rohde.

**Investigation:** Rafael Massuti, Luca Tessari, Fausto Campani, Glaucia Chiyoiko Akutagava-Martins.

**Methodology:** Carlos Renato Moreira-Maia, Samuele Cortese, Luís Augusto Rohde.

**Project administration:** Carlos Renato Moreira-Maia.

**Writing ± original draft:** Carlos Renato Moreira-Maia, Samuele Cortese, Luís Augusto Rohde.

**Writing ± review & editing:** Rafael Massuti, Luca Tessari, Fausto Campani, Glaucia Chiyoiko Akutagava-Martins.

### References

[1] American Psychiatric Association. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). 2013;American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

[2] Polanczyk GV, de Lima MS, Horta BL, et al. The worldwide prevalence of ADHD: a systematic review and metaregression analysis. Am J Psychiatry 2007;164:942–8.

[3] Polanczyk GV, Wilcox EG, Salum GA, et al. ADHD prevalence estimates across three decades: an updated systematic review and meta-regression analysis. Int J Epidemiol 2014;43:434–42.

[4] Simon V, Czobor P, Balint S, et al. Prevalence and correlates of adult attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder: meta-analysis. Br J Psychiatry 2009;194:204–11.

[5] World Health Organization. The ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders: Clinical Descriptions and Diagnostic Guidelines. 1992;World Health Organization.

[6] Azzurio HO, Gyllenberg DJ, Langridge A, et al. The increasing prevalence of reported diagnoses of childhood psychiatric disorders: a descriptive multinational comparison. Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2015;24:173–83.

[7] Píñas S, Issues AWGoQ. Practice parameter for the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2007;46:894–921.

[8] Bolea-Alamanac B, Nutt DJ, Adamou M, et al. Evidence-based guidelines for the pharmacological management of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: update on recommendations from the British Association for Psychopharmacology. J Psychopharmacol 2014;28:179–203.

[9] Canadian Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Resource Alliance (CADDRA). Canadian ADHD Practice Guidelines. In: CADDRA, ed. Third Edition ed. Toronto ON2011. Available at: https://caddra.ca/pdfs/caddraGuidelines2011.pdf. Accessed May 5, 2018.

[10] Taylor E, Dopfner M, Sergeant J, et al. European clinical guidelines for hyperkinetic disorder—first upgrade. Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2004;13(suppl 1):37–30.

[11] Subcommittee on Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Steering Committee on Quality, Improvement and Management, et al. ADHD: clinical practice guideline for the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in children and adolescents. Pediatrics 2011;128:1007–22.

[12] Taylor E. Uses and misuses of treatments for ADHD. The second Birgit Olsson lecture. Nord J Psychiatry 2014;68:236–42.

[13] Safer DJ, Krager JM. A survey of medication treatment for hyperactive/impulsive boys and girls. JAMA 1988;260:2256–8.

[14] Renoux C, Shin JY, Dell’Amico S, et al. Prescribing trends of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medications in UK primary care, 1993–2015. Br J Clin Pharmacol 2016;82:858–68.

[15] Zupekas SH, Vinello B. Stimulant medication use in children: a 12-year perspective. Am J Psychiatry 2012;169:160–6.

[16] Dalgaard S, Nielsen HS, Simonsen M. Five-fold increase in national prevalence rates of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder medications for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and other psychiatric disorders: a Danish register-based study. J Child Adolesc Psychopharmacol 2013;23:432–9.

[17] National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Diagnosis and Management of ADHD in Children, Young People and Adults. Leicester (UK) 2009.

[18] Willcutt EG. The prevalence of DSM-IV attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: a meta-analytic review. Neurotherapeutics 2012;9:490–9.

[19] Ruiz-Gosioetxe A, Cortese S, Amarez-Sanado M, et al. Risk of unintentional injuries in children and adolescents with ADHD and the impact of ADHD medications: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Neurosci Biobehav Rev 2018;84:63–71.

[20] Curry AE, Metzger KB, Pfeiffer MR, et al. Motor vehicle crash risk among adolescents and young adults with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. JAMA Pediatr 2017;171:736–63.

[21] Dalgaard S, Ostergaard SD, Leckman JF, et al. Mortality in children, adolescents, and adults with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: a nationwide cohort study. Lancet 2015;385:2190–6.

[22] Upadhyay N, Chen H, Mghere O, et al. The impact of pharmacotherapy on substance use in adolescents with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: variations across subtypes. A Systematic review. Journal of Substance Abuse 2017;52:1266–74.

[23] Chang Z, Quinn PD, Har K, et al. Association between medication use for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and risk of motor vehicle crashes. JAMA Psychiatry 2017;74:597–603.

[24] Chang Z, Lichtenstein P, D’Onofrio BM, et al. Serious transport accidents in adults with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and the effect of medication: a population-based study. JAMA Psychiatry 2014;71:319–25.

[25] Dalgaard S, Leckman JF, Mortensen PB, et al. Effect of drugs on the risk of injuries in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: a prospective cohort study. Lancet Psychiatry 2015;2:702–9.

[26] Chang Z, D’Onofrio BM, Quinn PD, et al. Medication for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and risk for depression: A Nationwide Longitudinal Cohort Study. Biol Psychiatry 2016;80:916–22.

[27] Chen Q, Sjolander A, Runeson B, et al. Drug treatment for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and suicidal behaviour: register based study. BMJ 2014;348:g3769.
Prasad V, Brogan E, Mulvaney C, et al. How effective are drug treatments for children with ADHD at improving on-task behaviour and academic achievement in the school classroom? A systematic review and meta-analysis. Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry 2013;22:203–16.

Lichtenstein P, Hallidner L, Zetterqvist J, et al. Medication for attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder and criminality. N Engl J Med 2012;367:2006–14.

King S, Griffin S, Hodges Z, et al. A systematic review and economic model of the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of methylphenidate, dexamphetamine and atomoxetine for the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children and adolescents. Health Technol Assess 2006;10:1–379.

Shamseer L, Moher D, Clarke M, et al. PRISMA-P GroupPreferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015: elaboration and explanation. BMJ 2015;349:g7647.

Stroup DF, Berlin JA, Morton SC, et al. Meta-analysis of observational studies in epidemiology: a proposal for reporting. Meta-analysis Of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE) group. JAMA 2000;283:2083–12.

Moreira-Maia CR, Massuti R, Tessari L, et al. Are ADHD medications under or over prescribed worldwide? Protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis. PROSPERO 2018. Available at: http://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/display_record.php?ID=CRD42018085233. Accessed May 5, 2018.

American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-III. 1980;American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-III-R. 1987;American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: Diagnostic Criteria from DSM-IV. 1994;American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-IV-TR. 2000;American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

World Health Organization. The International Classification of Diseases: 9th Revision, Clinical Modification: ICD-9-CM; 1991.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (update). Available at: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/developers/guideline/wave0798. Accessed May 5, 2018.

Newcastle–Ottawa Scale (The Newcastle–Ottawa scale (NOS) for assessing the quality of nonrandomised studies in meta-analyses). Available at: http://www.ohri.ca/programs/clinical_epidemiology/oxford.asp. Accessed May 5, 2018.

Higgins JPT, S G. Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions Version 5.1.0. Available at: http://handbook-5.1.cochrane.org/. Accessed May 5, 2018.

Rotenstein LS, Ramos MA, Torre M, et al. Prevalence of depression, depressive symptoms, and suicidal ideation among medical students: a systematic review and meta-analysis. JAMA 2016;316:2214–36.

Luo M, Tan H, Zhou Q, et al. Realizing the meta-analysis of single rate in R software. J Evid Based Med 2013;13:181–8.

DerSimonian R, Laird N. Meta-analysis in clinical trials. Control Clin Trials 1986;7:177–88.

Higgins JP, Thompson SG, Deeks JJ, et al. Measuring inconsistency in meta-analyses. BMJ 2003;327:557–60.

Egger M, Davey Smith G, Schneider M, et al. Bias in meta-analysis detected by a simple, graphical test. BMJ 1997;315:629–34.

Miller RG. The Jackknife—a review. Biometrika 1974;61:1–5.