Reviewer’s report

Title: Are GPs adequately equipped for educating and counseling of families with ADHD children?

Version: 1 Date: 28 June 2009

Reviewer: Yoram Nevo

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Ghanizadeh & Zarei surveyed 665 general physicians in Shiraz, Iran, querying their knowledge, attitude and views regarding the diagnosis and management of children with ADHD. The novelty of this publication is the disclosure of the views of Iranian General Practitioners. Similar studies were performed in other countries. Some of the information is consistent with previous findings in other reports but there are some major concerns regarding analysis of the data and interpretation of the results.

My specific comments regarding this manuscript are as follows:

Major compulsory revisions:

1. I totally disagree with the conclusion that "The majority of GPs have reasonable information about the statements surveyed at the current study". Taking into account that less than 50% knew that ADHD has a biologic and genetic predisposition and only 6.6% acknowledged that "ADHD related difficulties are long life", the major conclusion should probably be that GPs in Iran, as in may other countries worldwide, have inadequate knowledge regarding ADHD. Comparison of the data to similar studies in Australian or European countries would be interesting.

2. In this manuscript results were analyzed based on that "scores less than 50% were considered as inadequate knowledge". This is unacceptable. Accepting these terms would mean that physicians' assessment which were as accurate as random guessing (50%) were graded as adequate knowledge.

3. How was the questionnaire validated?

4. Table 1- what does the answering code represent? If this represents the correct answer according to the authors, many of these answers are incorrect. (for example: being able to watch TV or play with computer rules out ADHD – true? Children with ADHD misbehave because they don't want to obey rules – true? etc.).

5. Table 1-The sentence "Just 20% agreed that ADHD is not a serious problem" needs further clarification. Do the authors perceive ADHD as a non serious problem? ADHD is not a life threatening medical condition but harbors significant consequences to the child’s future development and education.

6. Table 1- Some of the items may relate to co-morbidity of ADHD. These include questions regarding oral examination or special education setting. These items
may be deleted.

Minor essential revisions:
1. The title: I think the authors mean: Are GPs equipped with the appropriate knowledge….
2. Was the mean practice of the physicians’ study 1.4 years?
3. The information in tables 3 & 4 do not require specific tables and can be incorporated into the results section.
4. The manuscript requires English editing.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.