Reviewer's report


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Reviewer: Maria Melchior

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This manuscript examines the association between ADHD in childhood and later work disability in Norway. The authors report that children with ADHD are more likely to be on disability pension than individuals who had other forms of psychiatric disorders as children. While this study is original and brings new evidence in favor of a strong link between ADHD early in life and occupational and social outcomes later in life, I have several comments.

1. The analysis is based on cases of ADHD patients who were hospitalized due to their illness – what factors are related to inpatient treatment? In particular, is family socioeconomic position a factor associated with hospitalization? This is important, to understand the generalizability of findings to broader populations (or clinical settings in other countries).

2. Disability pension disproportionately affects individuals who work in low grade occupations. One of the mechanisms linking ADHD to DP could be low educational attainment (Galéra et al 2009) – this should be acknowledged in the discussion.

3. The findings suggest that ADHD patients have the lowest overall functioning levels – does the association with DP persist after adjusting for CGAS scores or do these explain the relationship entirely?

4. The two figures are difficult to read.