The Internet in the Service of Mothers of Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (Poster)

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Abstract

Attention Hyperactivity Deficit Disorder (ADHD) affects 5-10% of children. Many families coping with this disorder search for a venue to address the questions which constantly arise, and a reliable source to respond to their questions. From various research studies (Kendall, 1998; Kendall, Leo, Perin, & Hatton, 2005) the importance of providing a support framework, not only for the child under treatment but also for his parents, has been firmly established. A broad base of familial support will aid parents in coping better, both with their child, and with their own emotions related to the conflicts in coping with a child with ADHD.

The objectives of the study were to examine the principal areas troubling the parents of children with ADHD, to map the questions of parents and the degree of appeals for support and encouragement as expressed within the Internet by the parents. It was assumed that the mothers would be the dominant parent in the treatment and daily life of the child with ADHD, and the primary involvement of the Internet site would focus on meeting the demands for support and encouragement. During the month of January 2008, the numbers of approaches to the site were counted. Each new approach, with its reactions, was copied and catalogued in the respective category – medical treatment, diagnosis, etc.

Out of the three Internet sites active in Israel related to ADHD, a sample was taken from one of them, “Tapuz”, which gathers together experts, and is conducted in a civilized and respectable manner, enabling easy accessibility to parents to broach subjects close to their feelings. According to the assumptions of the study, out of 190 new approaches related to children with ADHD, 181 of them were from mothers. Nevertheless, contrary to the assumptions of the research study, the findings indicate quite a high percentage of questions related to medicinal topics, a fact which reinforces the findings of Sim and his colleagues (2007). In addition, questions arose which related to expert diagnoses, behavioral problems, coping with school, etc. Only 9% of the approaches were requests for support and encouragement. The conclusion of the research study is that the Internet serves as a significant tool for obtaining information, and parental support. The support is expressed in a variety of topics beginning with medical/medicinal data, the manner of obtaining professional diagnosis, and requests for recommendations of appropriate schools. It appears that the
virtual emotional support is necessary to families bringing up children with ADHD.

**Keywords:** Parents, children with attention deficit, internet support.
References


