The Effects of Negative and Harsh Parenting Behavior on Childhood ADHD Over Time

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Background

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

- Childhood disorder
  - Abnormal patterns of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity

Negative and Harsh Parenting

- Previous literature has found that negative parenting behaviors can exacerbate child ADHD symptoms ([Kaiser et al., 2011](#))
Research Question

Does more negative and harsh parenting behaviors cause more child ADHD symptoms at a later time, even after accounting for the child’s ADHD originally?
Participants

Time 1

• N=210 participants recruited as kindergarteners ($M_{age}=6.02$ years, $SD=0.43$)
  • 56.7% boys
  • 82.4% white
  • 20.2% met criteria for ADHD diagnosis

Time 2

• N=56 participants ($M_{age}=8.14$ years, $SD=0.42$)
  • 55.4% boys
  • 89.3% white
  • 16.4% met criteria for ADHD diagnosis

• On-going data collection
Measures

**ADHD Symptoms** (*Dependent Variable*)
- Diagnostic Interview Schedule for Children (DISC-IV) – *Time 2*
  - ADHD total symptom count
  - Time 1 was included as covariate

**Negative & Harsh Parenting Behavior** (*Independent Variables*)
- Alabama Parenting Questionnaire – *Time 1*
  - 43 items
  - Poor monitoring/supervision, inconsistent discipline and corporal punishment subscales → global negative score
Measures

- **Dyadic Parent-Child Interaction Coding System (DPICS) – Time 1**
  - Code for occurrences of commands, questions, praise and negative talk
  - % negative talk from total positive and negative speech

- **Smartphone-Based Behavioral Assessment – Time 1**
  - Ecological momentary assessment (Li & Lansford, 2018)
  - Measure day-to-day variations in parenting behaviors for 1 week
    - MSSD for aggressive parenting
Preliminary Results

Significant association of child ADHD at time 1 $\rightarrow$ child ADHD at time 2

$y = 1.02 + 0.87x$

$R^2$ Linear = 0.436
Preliminary Results

No significant association of global negative parenting at time 1 \(\rightarrow\) ADHD symptoms at time 2.
No significant association of observational negative talk at time 1 → ADHD symptoms at time 2.
Preliminary Results

No significant association of aggressive parenting variability (smartphone) at time 1 → ADHD symptoms at time 2
Discussion

Overall, negative parenting at time 1 does not predict child ADHD symptomology at time 2, over and above the effects of the child’s ADHD at time 1
  • Consistent across all modes of measuring negative parenting

Limitations
  • Small sample size due to ongoing data collection
  • Reliable coding of negative talk in DPICS

Strengths
  • Multi-modal approach
  • Longitudinal
Future Directions

Results from this study can provide insight into key targets in ADHD intervention and treatment
• Interactions between parental stress and negative parenting
• Effect of child ADHD symptomology on parenting
  • Bidirectional relationship?

![Image of children smiling](image-url)
Acknowledgements

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