Abuse of ADHD Drugs – I

Lead: In recent years an increasing number of children have been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (A.D.H.D.). With that increase has come abuse.

Intro: A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts

Content: ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disorder. Scientists are not 100% sure of the cause of the syndrome but studies in the early 2000s have indicated that it is a
malfuction in the frontal cortex of the brain which affects executive functions such as reasoning, planning, focusing, and problem solving. Dopamine, a neurotransmitter, has been determined to be deficient in people with A.D.H.D. Absent sufficient quantities of dopamine, a patient may have trouble with memory and task flexibility. Studies by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) indicate that a child affected by A.D.H.D. may daydream a lot or lose important items, make careless mistakes, overdo physical activity, talk a lot and have reduced social skills. Unfortunately, this diagnosis is rather vague since such characterize many young children not all of which are troubled by A.D.H.D. This imprecise analysis is made even more complicated because of the drugs that have typically been used to treat the syndrome; drugs that have led to abuse of near epidemic proportions.
The way physicians treat A.D.H.D. is through the use of drug-based stimulants which are known to induce attention, alertness, and energy, and the abuse of which has intensified over the past two decades, suspiciously paralleling the increased diagnosis of A.D.H.D. among children and young adults. The most common drugs used in this fashion are Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta, and Vyvance. Adderall is an amphetamine-based drug that rushes dopamine into the front cortex inducing alertness, increased attention and euphoria. In a patient truly suffering from A.D.H.D. this dopamine increase restores normal brain function, but to a person with normal brain function, the use of Adderall and its sibling drugs increases their focus particularly, in the case of students, during the run up to exams and submission of papers, not to mention the elation that is

At the University of Richmond’s School of Professional and Continuing Studies, I’m Dan Roberts.
Resources


Copyright 2018 Dan Roberts Enterprises, Inc.