

# **Mother-Child Relationship in Siblings of Adolescents with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**

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**Objective:** Rate of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in siblings of probands with ADHD is 7 times higher than in general population and impaired mother-child relationship in ADHD probands had been reported. However, there is sparse research on the mother-child relationship in siblings of ADHD adolescents. This work examined mother-child relationship in affected and unaffected siblings of adolescents with ADHD as compared to that of ADHD adolescents and non-ADHD school controls.

**Methods:** We enrolled 122 probands, aged 10-16, with DSM-IV ADHD, 44 affected and 78 non-affected siblings, and 122 non-ADHD. Both participants and their mothers received the K-SADS-E interviews and reported on mother-child relationship and family function.

**Results:** Both reports revealed affected siblings and ADHD adolescents had less affection/care and more authoritarian control than unaffected siblings and non-ADHD adolescents. Meanwhile unaffected siblings and non-ADHD adolescents had less impaired mother-child relationship and fewer problems with parents than ADHD adolescents. However, siblings regardless of affected status and ADHD adolescents had lower perceived family support than non-ADHD adolescents. Both mothers and adolescents had similar views on reports of maternal overprotection and mother-child relationships, yet disagreed on reports of maternal affection and control, problems with parents and perceived family support.

**Conclusion:** The finding suggested that the presence of ADHD had impact on maternal parenting behaviors toward the children themselves; whereas, having a child with ADHD was associated with decreased perceived family support regardless of

ADHD status in the same family.