

“How do I know if this patient has ADHD or not?”:

Diagnostic Assessment of ADHD in Adulthood

Increasing numbers of adults are seeking out assessment and treatment for ADHD. However, ADHD is considered to be one of the most misdiagnosed conditions, being prone to both over- and under-diagnosis. This presentation provides a model for a comprehensive diagnostic assessment of ADHD in adults that can be tailored and used by clinicians in practice to increase diagnostic accuracy. Issues related to DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for ADHD, presenting symptoms and problems characteristic of ADHD that are not included in the official criteria, the prevalence and persistence of ADHD into adulthood, testing for ADHD, the issue of malingering, as well as telling clients when their difficulties are not consistent with a diagnosis of ADHD will be discussed.

Target Audience

*Psychologists Social Workers Counselors
Therapists Psychiatrists Nurses
Course Level: Intermediate*

Learning Objectives

At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

- 1. Cite the components required for a diagnosis of ADHD in adulthood as defined by DSM-5, including the recent modifications for adults and ongoing limitations.*
- 2. Summarize models that provide a wider view of symptoms of ADHD beyond those outlined in DSM-5 criteria in order to adequately assess for the presence of the ADHD symptoms drawing from contemporary etiologic models of ADHD.*
- 3. Cite at least one source of corroborative information that can be used to augment patient self-report.*
- 4. Identify at least one way in which testing can aid in the evaluation of ADHD and one way in which testing may hinder the identification of adult ADHD in adults.*
- 5. Name at least one clinical inventory that can be used as a part of an adult ADHD evaluation in clinical practice.*

Outline

BEGIN 12 PM ET

*Current DSM-5 diagnostic requirements
Models for understanding and “seeing” ADHD symptoms
Prevalence and persistence of ADHD in adulthood
Common impairments observed in cases of ADHD*

BREAK 1:30 PM ET (15 minutes)

*Comprehensive diagnostic assessment
Screening
Clinical/Developmental Interview
Developmental history
Family History*

Educational History

College

Occupational History

Social and Interpersonal History

Structured Diagnostic Interview/Differential Diagnoses

Review of Clinical Inventories

Feedback Session

Review of useful inventories, questionnaires and other diagnostic tools

Testing (What it can and cannot do)

What if a patient does not have ADHD?

Malingering

CONCLUSION 3:15 PM ET

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The Presenter

Dr. J. Russell (“Russ”) Ramsay is co-founder and co-director of the University of Pennsylvania’s Adult ADHD Treatment and Research Program and an associate professor of clinical psychology in psychiatry in the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Ramsay earned his PhD from Palo Alto University (formerly known as Pacific Graduate School of Psychology) in 1995 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in cognitive-behavioral therapy at the Center for Cognitive Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ramsay has authored numerous peer-reviewed professional and scientific articles, as well as many book chapters. He is author of four books, most recently the revised and updated second edition of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Adult ADHD: An Integrative Psychosocial and Medical Approach and its companion patient guidebook, The Adult ADHD Tool Kit (both Routledge, 2015, with co-author Anthony Rostain, M.D.).

Dr. Ramsay serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Attention Disorders. He also serves on the Professional Advisory Boards of the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA) and Children and Adults with ADHD (CHADD), and is on the Board of the American Professional Society of ADHD and Related Disorders (APSARD). He is recipient of the Martin P. Szuba Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching & Research from PENN and was inducted into the CHADD Hall of Fame for his contribution to the treatment of adults with ADHD. Dr. Ramsay is frequently interviewed by various media outlets regarding issues related to adult ADHD and has lectured across the country and around the world.

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