ATTENTION DEFICIT AND HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER IN WOMEN WITH POLYCYSTIC OVARY SYNDROME

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Objectives

Attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that is more common in males.[1] However, women also suffer from this condition. Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is the most common endocrinopathy in women[2], characterized by hyperandrogenism which is also defined in the etiology of ADHD.[3] In this study, women with PCOS were compared with the control group in terms of ADHD diagnosis, attention, and hyperactivity severity.

Methods

52 women with PCOS and age-education matched 52 controls without PCOS were included in the study. Wender Utah Rating Scale (WURS) and Adult Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder Self-Report Scale (ASRS) were applied for ADHD symptom severity. Clinical evaluation was performed using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID-I) and Diagnostic Interview for ADHD in Adults (DIVA 2.0).

Results

WURS and ASRS total scores were found to be significantly higher in the PCOS group compared to the controls (Table 1). It was determined that the PCOS group had higher irritability depression, and attention deficit subscale scores in WURS, and attention deficit and hyperactivity impulsivity subscale scores in ASRS than controls. According to the structured interview with DIVA 2.0, the diagnosis of ADHD is significantly higher in the PCOS group (p = .038). (Figure 1)

Table 1

ASRS and WURS Total Scores and Comparison Between Groups

		PCOS (n=52)	Control (n=52)	p value
ASRS	Total (mean ± SD)	25.48±14.02	18.88±8.64	.005* t=2.887
WURS	Total (median min.-max.)	15.5 (0-55)	11 (0-48)	.007* z=2.710

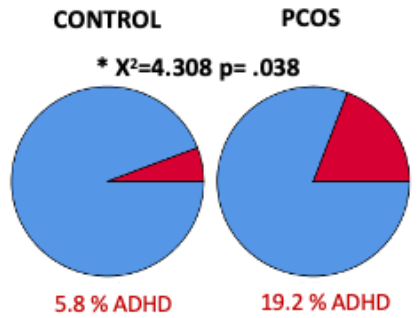


Figure 1. Comparison of groups in terms of diagnosis of ADHD

Conclusions

In our study, ADHD diagnosis, and symptom severity were higher in patients with PCOS compared to controls. So, women with PCOS who have attention or other cognitive complaints should be assessed in terms of ADHD. Future studies are needed to further explore the relationship between the two conditions.

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