

Review of: "Neuropsychiatric and Social Consequences of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Females"

Phuc Nguyen¹

¹ University of California, Berkeley

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Strengths:

- Excellent coverage of challenges that women with ADHD often face. This really helps others (i.e., neurotypical individuals) understand the range of difficulties impacting women with ADHD, which can be helpful in increasing empathy/understanding
- I love the inclusion of physical conditions as most work thus far solely focus on comorbid mental health challenges (though I still think it's important to mention comorbid mental health; see more detail in the suggestion section)
- I really appreciate the discussion on masking and overcompensating tendencies among women with ADHD. I think these are important topics and I would love a more in-depth discussion to really highlight these women's efforts to appear "normal"
- I also appreciate the discussion on positive aspects of ADHD as it's not often talked/discussed enough.

Suggestions for improvements:

- Consider adding references to help elaborate on why it's important to study women with ADHD. Works from Stephen Hinshaw are relevant here.
- Generally, I'd strongly suggest including more references to back up your statements (note these are just examples and not meant to be an exhaustive list):
 - E.g., need citation for this "Furthermore, under-diagnosis in females . . ."
 - Same here, "ADHD females often feel they are trying harder but with less initial success than others. They describe feeling that they constantly switch between channels without having control of the remote. They may perceive themselves as being weird or odd-ball, and they often fear, and may ultimately experience, both alienation and abandonment by others." Any citations to back these up? Agreeing with Ashley Halkett that these seem more like anecdotal statements.
 - Same here "ADHD females are often sexually active earlier and report more sexual partners than their peers, making them vulnerable to increased risks of teenage pregnancy and sexually acquired disease"
 - Given the importance of this statement, please add a reference "ADHD females can have a prodigious capacity for work and may achieve great insights into specialised topics when 'switched on'."
 - Also here "They be unable to contain and communicate their feelings accurately, despite often having otherwise

excellent linguistic skills.”

- Wording suggestions:
 - Consider changing “ADHD females” to “Women with ADHD”
 - Unless studies used experimental designs, I’d caution against the use of causal language (e.g., “Such difficulties often extend into adult life and may impede personal and professional progress **by causing** educational, familial, financial and criminal problems”)
 - Also, since this is your first sentence of the section, it’d be great if you could list what the difficulties to which you were referring are
 - In general, I’d recommend to avoid using causal language/wording such as “producing,” “causing,”
- Unsure whether the references provided in the “Comorbid conditions” section are relevant (e.g., ref #56)
 - Also in this section, does the discussion only focus on physical conditions that often “accompany” ADHD? If yes, what about comorbid mental health conditions? Should you also discuss those especially given your last sentence in this paragraph?
- What is “disordered resilience” in this sentence “There is a dearth of research into the factors that precipitate such dysfunctional outcomes which may be a consequence of disordered resilience [72] through lack of appropriate support and understanding”?
 - Unsure if the ref is relevant
- It reads to me that the last half of the “Masking and its consequences” section (i.e., the part where ADHD is discussed alongside other neurodevelopmental conditions) is out of place/unrelated to masking. I think the discussion is important so please consider having it in a separate section or in the Discussion