Nine Categories on the ECBI: A Comprehensive View of ADHD Behavior Problems

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**ABSTRACT**
This study uses two groups of clinic-referred children, one with a diagnosis of ADHD and one with low attention problem behaviors. We examine whether 9 categories on the ECBI can give a more comprehensive view of behavior problems than the Intensity and Problem Scales alone.

**HYPOTHESIS**
The 9 categories of behavior on the ECBI will show that children diagnosed with ADHD will have significantly higher scores on the Attention Problems category compared to children with low attention problem behaviors.

**RESULTS**
The findings of this study support the use of these 9 behavior categories in pinpointing specific behavior problems from pre- to mid-assessment points for both groups of children.

**INTRODUCTION**
The Eyberg Child Behavior Inventory (ECBI) assessment was developed to measure common disruptive behavior problems exhibited by children aged 2 to 16 years (Eyberg & Pincus, 1999).

**METHOD**
Participants: 98 children referred to Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for disruptive behaviors; 29 children with a diagnosis of ADHD, and 69 children with low attention problem behaviors.

**RESULTS cont.**
Children in the ADHD group were more likely to be older than children with low levels of attention problems, and more likely to be males.

**DISCUSSION**
The purpose of this study was to examine the usefulness of 9 categories of behavior on the ECBI in pinpointing specific problem areas for children, making it easier for therapists to generate specific treatment goals and tailor their coaching to the needs of the client.

**CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS**
The results of this study reinforce the usefulness of supplementing the two ECBI main scales with 9 specific categories of behavior in order to better identify treatment goals.