

BEATING THEIR CHESTS: UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH ADHD DEMONSTRATE GREATER ATTENTIONAL ABILITIES ON AN INATTENTIONAL BLINDNESS PARADIGM

Grossman, E.S., Hoffman, Y.S.G., Berger, I., & Zivotofsky, A.Z. (2015). *Neuropsychology*, doi.org/10.1037/neu0000189.

SYNOPSIS

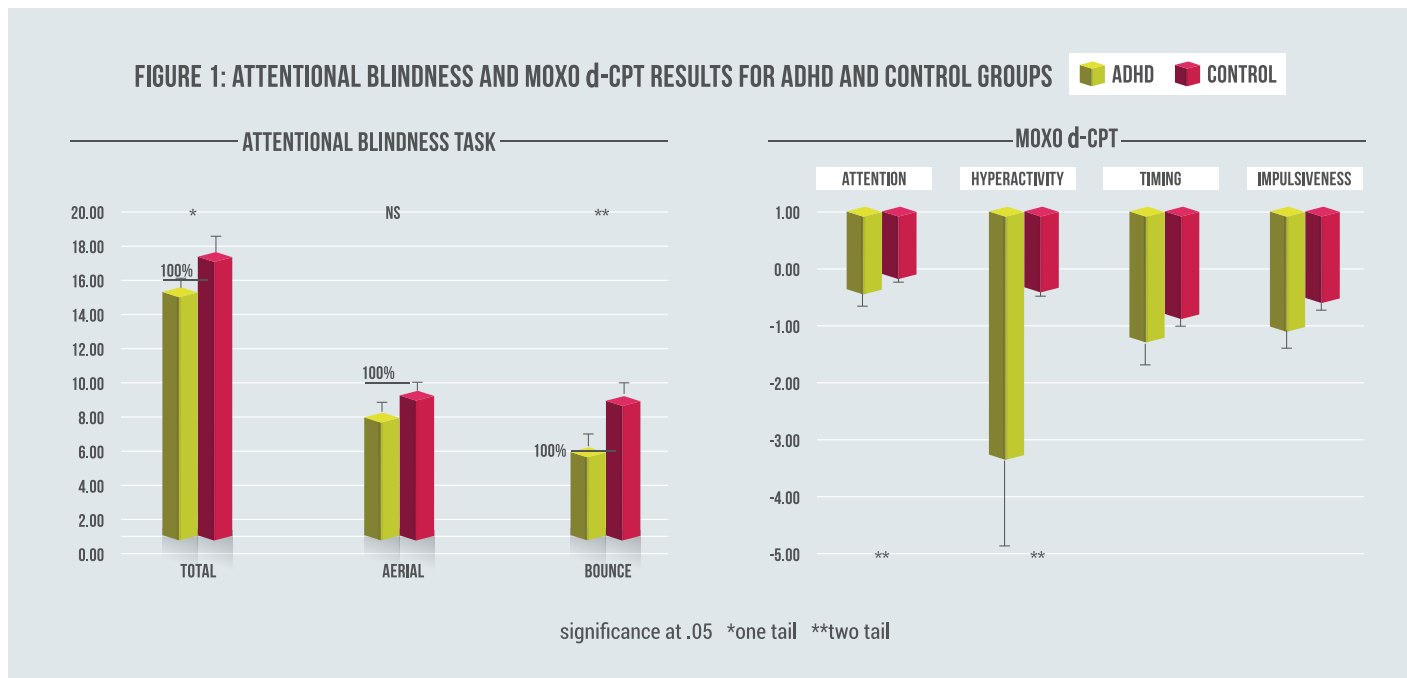
Using a low perceptual load task (the MOXO-d-CPT) and a high perceptual load inattentional blindness task, the study explores whether ADHD adults have global distractibility impairment, a limited perceptual capacity, or a specific impairment in processing repeated stimulus. Results support the third model (impairment in repeated tasks).

STUDY SUMMARY

- Population: 14 ADHD university students (mean age: 24.07) and 18 matched controls (mean age 23.3).
- Measures:
 - MOXO d-CPT - Performance was compared on four indices of the test: Attention, Timing, Hyperactivity and Impulsiveness in order to assess attentional differences between the controls and ADHD group.
 - High perceptual load inattentional blindness task (detecting unattended stimuli).

RESULTS

- Students with ADHD showed increased distractibility in the MOXO-d-CPT task. By contrast, they performed better than controls in the inattentional blindness task (figure 1).



DISCUSSION

- ADHD adults can perform a demanding task while simultaneously processing unattended stimuli at no apparent cost. This advantage did not result from an attentional trade-off. Results support the “hunter versus farmer” hypothesis, which argues that ADHD individuals have an alternative cognitive style which is less equipped to deal with detection of repeated stimuli while comprising advantages in the tracking of stimuli moving in a fast dynamic manner.