

CHILDREN GROW UP: LONGITUDINAL STUDIES OF NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS WITH EARLY CHILDHOOD ONSET

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A few per cent of all children are affected by early symptomatic neuropsychiatric disorders such as autism spectrum conditions (ASC) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). These disorders can be recognized and diagnosed in early childhood, and there is good evidence that various types of intervention - psychological, educational and pharmacological - are effective in alleviating functional impairments. Nevertheless, possibly the majority of all cases are still missed in childhood. Children with ASC and ADHD usually grow up to become adults with ASC and ADHD, but the risk of misdiagnosis and diagnostic overshadowing is even greater than in childhood. The symposium will focus on the long-term outcome of individuals diagnosed in early childhood as suffering from ASC and/or ADHD, and on adults diagnosed with "typical" adult psychiatric problems who - in fact - have underlying ASC and/or ADHD.