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| Conclusions  Is there consistency in the diagnosis of ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) among children and if there isn’t consistency are some methods more effective than others?  Based on the research I have conducted, and the surveys I completed, I have found that there isn’t consistency in the diagnosis of ADD. Even with the small sample size of doctors that I interviewed I was able to see that each doctor had his own way of diagnosing ADD. Even though most of the doctors used questionnaires and careful history taking in their diagnosing process, there were only few that relied on only these methods. Even the few that relied on only careful history taking and questionnaires used different questionnaires and they did not have a set plan for their careful history taking, at least not one that they told me about. Some gave me samples of all of the different questionnaires that they use and there are so many that I can’t even keep track of them. I have posted some of the most well know ones on my web site, but there are many, many more. There is a set criteria that doctors have to follow when diagnosing ADD, the DSM IV, but only 2 of the doctors I interviewed mentioned this criteria. Most doctors don’t seem to abide by it.  Because ADD is a syndrome, and not a disease, doctors don’t have hard criteria for the disease. There are many variables that go into play in someone getting diagnosed with ADD. Some of these variables, as seen in my data, are the doctors not receiving the right information, or missing an important part of a child’s history. ADD is such a broad diagnosis that it is very hard to formulate criteria for diagnosing it perfectly.  The Ames clinic has claimed that they have found a sure way of seeing that a person has ADD. The only question I would like people to keep in mind when looking at their very credible website is “Are they trying to sell you something?”  Through my data I was not able to conclude what is the most effective way of diagnosing ADD. All doctors except for one said that their way was most of the time effective. The only doctor that said that his way was always effective is Dr. Hawkins, and he uses spec scans. This is not substantial data to provide me with an answer.  A lot of doctors do believe that careful history taking is the best way of diagnosing ADD thoroughly, but this does not mean that it is.  My experiment had some flaws that I would like to point out, and these flaws are that a lot of the questions were opinion based. The only question that was not opinion based was question number one that asked what method the doctor sued in diagnosing ADD. This is the only question that provided me with significant data. I also was not able to receive a large enough sample size of doctors to interview. Even though I called doctors numerous times, I was only able to get a hold of about 20 numbers, and only around 10 doctors responded back. I would like to thank all of these doctors for their help.  Some future recommendations for research in this area are a national investigation of the conduct of doctors diagnosing ADD. This would hopefully prevent at least some misdiagnosing of ADD by doctors that refuse to abide by the national standards of diagnosis.  I would also like to recommend more research in spec scans done by different institutions in order to prove weather or not they are a good way of diagnosing ADD.  My final recommendation is that the doctors prescribing ADD medication and also diagnosing ADD should receive extensive education on the subject.  After this research project I believe that if all doctors combined all of their research and beliefs on the disorder, a more effective way of diagnosing it might be found.  [(Bibliography)](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html) [(Journal)](http://docs.google.com/journal.html)  [[Home](http://docs.google.com/home.html)][[Introduction](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html)][[Hypothesis](http://docs.google.com/hypothesis.html)][[Procedure](http://docs.google.com/procedure.html)][[Data](http://docs.google.com/data.html)][[Conclusions](http://docs.google.com/conclusions.html)][[Bilio/Links](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html)]  [[2002 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2002/index.html)][[2001 Projects](http://docs.google.com/index.html)][[2000 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2000/index.html)][[1999 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP99/index.html)][[1998 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP98/index.html)] |
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