Kids treated for ADHD show improvement

NEW YORK, July 23 (UPI) -- Most children treated in a variety of ways for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder showed sustained improvement, according to U.S. researchers.

The study tracked children who had participated in the Multimodal Treatment Study of Children with ADHD.

Initial advantages of medication management alone or in combination with behavioral treatment over purely behavioral or routine community care waned in the years after 14 months of controlled treatment ended, according to the August Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Dr. Peter Jensen of Columbia University and colleagues emphasized that "it would be incorrect to conclude from these results that treatment makes no difference or is not worth pursuing."

"We were struck by the remarkable improvement in symptoms and functioning across all treatment groups," Jensen said in a statement.

After three years, 45 percent to 71 percent of the youth in the original treatment groups were taking medication; however, continuing medication treatment was no longer associated with better outcomes by the third year, the study said.