INTRODUCTION

Behavior modification and stimulant medication are evidence-based treatments for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Pelham, Whalen, & Chen (1998). The combination of behavior modification and stimulant medication is also an evidence-based treatment for ADHD (Pelham & Washington, 1999).

LIMITATIONS OF COMBINED TREATMENT STUDIES TO DATE

Combination behavioral and medication treatments have not been studied extensively. Furthermore, the use of behavioral interventions in the classroom has not been extensively studied. Furthermore, the use of behavioral interventions in the classroom has not been extensively studied. Furthermore, the use of behavioral interventions in the classroom has not been extensively studied. Furthermore, the use of behavioral interventions in the classroom has not been extensively studied.

PARTICIPANTS AND SETTING

Participants: Forty-four boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 entered the investigation. All participants were treated with the 2002 summer treatment program (STP) for children with ADHD at the University of Buffalo. Participants were required to meet DSM-IV criteria for ADHD and have a combined full-scale IQ of at least 80, and have no history of adverse reaction or noncompliance to methylphenidate. Parents and teachers completed questionnaires at the University of Buffalo Health Sciences Research Institute (HRSR). The participants were 506-515.

PROCEDURES

Seatwork Period: The seatwork period of the classroom.

Measures:

1. Seatwork Completion
   - Each day as part of the nine-hour STP day, children attended an academic period of three hours. The percentage of seatwork completed each day was collected and recorded. Work was completed appropriately, Stay in your assigned seat area. Raise your hand to speak or ask for help. If necessary.

2. Academic Consequences
   - The percentage of seatwork completed each day was collected and recorded. Work was set at a level such that children completed approximately 90% of the total assigned work with at least 85% accuracy each day.

RESULTS

Mean for each group:

- Placebo: 15 mg/kg
- Low: 3 mg/kg
- High: 6 mg/kg

Means were calculated by subtracting each treatment mean from the mean of the No BMOD placebo condition and dividing by the standard deviation of the No BMOD placebo condition (Cohen, 1990). Effect sizes are displayed in the table.


discussion

The results of this study have important implications for public policy and treatment of ADHD. The combination of behavior modification and medication is the most effective intervention for ADHD, and stimulant medication alone should be a first-line treatment of behavior modification and medication yielding no incremental benefit (Jadad et al., 1999; Klein & Abikoff, 1997; Miltenyi, 1999).

REFERENCES