ADHD Child Evaluation for Adults (ACE+)

ACE+

The ACE+ is a semi-structured clinical interview designed for the diagnostic assessment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in adults. Used by psychologists and other clinicians trained in ADHD, it systematically explores current symptoms of inattention and hyperactivity-impulsivity, their retrospective presence in childhood, their persistence over the course of development and their functional impact. The tool helps verify the DSM diagnostic criteria, document the impact across several life settings and support differential diagnosis. The ACE+ is particularly useful as part of an in-depth clinical assessment of adult ADHD, especially when the interview, the clinical history, collateral information and the examination of comorbidities need to be brought together.

Number of questions	36 questions
Estimated duration	30 minutes
Language	English
Original name	ADHD Clinical Evaluation Plus
Target audience	Adults
Authors	Susan Young (2015)
Category	ADHD

Scoring & interpretation

The interview is administered by a clinician. The 18 ADHD symptoms are examined for the current period and retrospectively for childhood, then rated as present or absent based on the clinical examples gathered. Interpretation is based on the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria: at least 5 current symptoms in one or both dimensions, several symptoms present before age 12, clinically significant impairment in at least two settings, and no better explanation by another disorder or condition. Information from people close to the patient and from the developmental history is recommended to strengthen diagnostic validity.