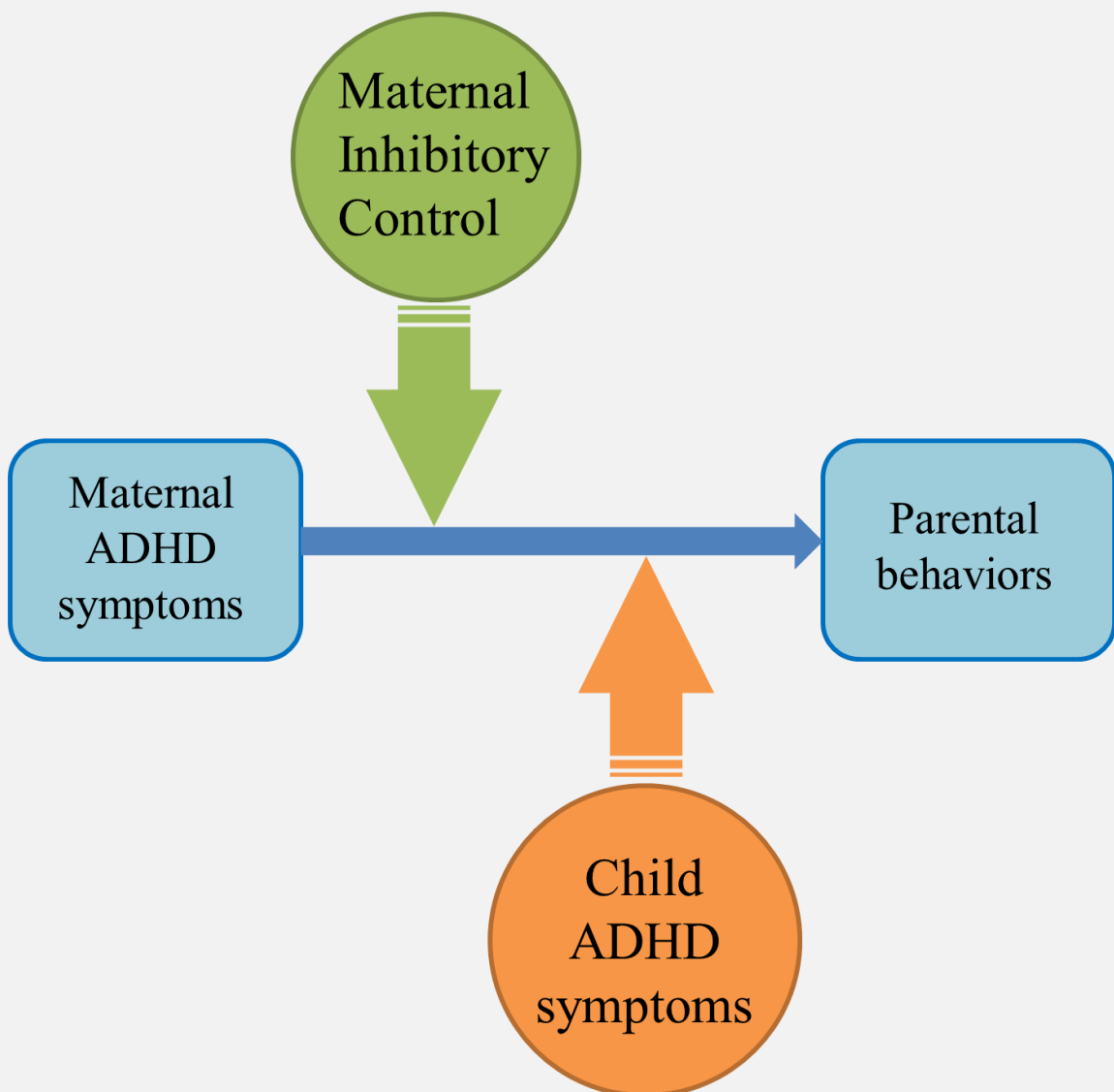


Introduction

Study Goals

- ✚ Parenting is one of the complex tasks of adulthood which requires cognitive, emotional, and behavioral endeavor. Belsky’s process model identifies three domains of determinants of parental functioning: parents’ personal psychological resources, contextual sources of stress and support, and child’s characteristics.
- ✚ Recently there has been an increased research on parental cognitive and affective functioning as determinants of parenting behaviors.
- ✚ Parental ADHD symptoms are related to a broad range of parenting difficulties.
- ✚ In the context of high hereditary of ADHD, it is probable that among parents with elevated symptoms of ADHD, parenting challenges stem from the presence of ADHD symptoms in their children.
- ✚ Inhibitory control is critical to parents’ controlled response to their child’s misbehaviors, to hold back from intervening or hovering, and suppress interference in order to maintain child focus.
- ✚ Inhibitory control is one of the ADHD-related core deficits. Hence, it might be an important capacity in linking parental ADHD and parenting impairments. In addition, the difficulties in inhibitory control that might make it difficult for parents to remain calm and consistent in their approaches to child behavior, would be even more pronounce in the context of parenting a child with ADHD.

- ✚ To examine the relations between mothers’ ADHD symptoms and their self-reported and observed parenting behaviors.
- ✚ To examine the mechanism underlying the associations between parents' ADHD symptoms and impairments in parenting. Specifically, to examine whether child’s ADHD and maternal inhibitory control moderate these relations.



Method

Participants: 141 mothers and their 8 to 12 years-old children - 72 boys and 69 girls, 61 with ADHD and 80 without ADHD.

| Parent and child ADHD symptoms | Parental Inhibitory Control Neurocognitive computerized tasks | Parental Behaviors |
|---|---|--|
| Parent ADHD symptoms (ASRS; Kessler et al., 2005). Child ADHD symptoms (DuPaul et al., 1998). Children conduct problems (SDQ; Goodman, 1997). | Response Inhibition - Go/No-Go task Interference Inhibition – Strooplike task. (Tsal, Shalev, & Mevorach, 2005) | Self-Reported: Overreactive and Lax discipline (Arnold et al., 1993) Observed behaviors during a conflict discussion task. Supportive behaviors: offering and planning comments, asking questions, providing explanations and considering child’s opinions and suggestions. Parenting negativity: criticism, dismissive, rejection, and negative affect. * Behavioral observations were recorded using INTERACT observational software (INTERACT 16.05; Mangold 2017). |

Results

Discussion

Child’s ADHD and Conduct

Mothers of children with ADHD tend to demonstrate **more negativity** in their parenting than mothers of children without ADHD.

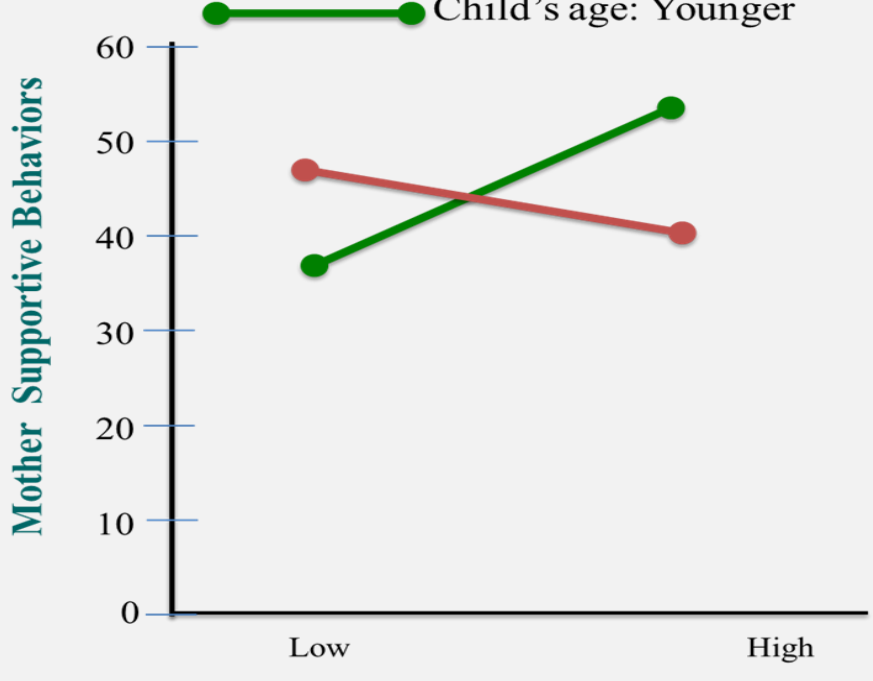
Increased child conduct problems were associated **with increased mothers' overreactive** parenting

Child’s Sex

Mothers of girls tend to be more overreactive than mothers of boys

Child’s Age

Mothers of older children demonstrated greater use of negativity in their parenting.



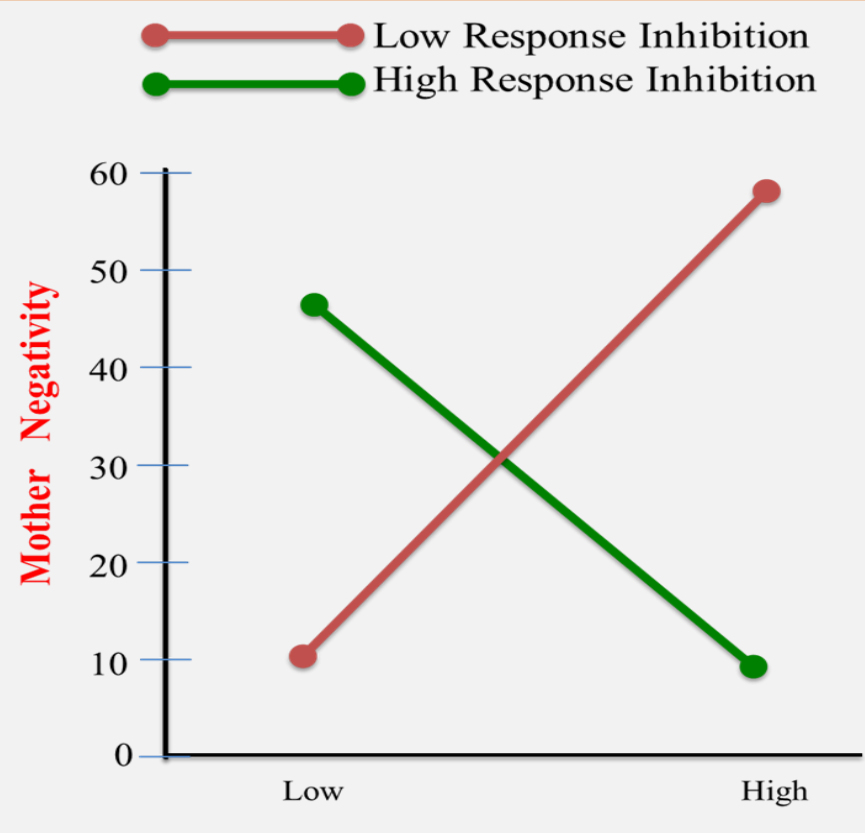
Maternal hyperactive-impulsive symptoms

Mothers' hyperactive-impulsive symptoms were related to supportive parenting only in mothers of younger children but not in mothers with older children

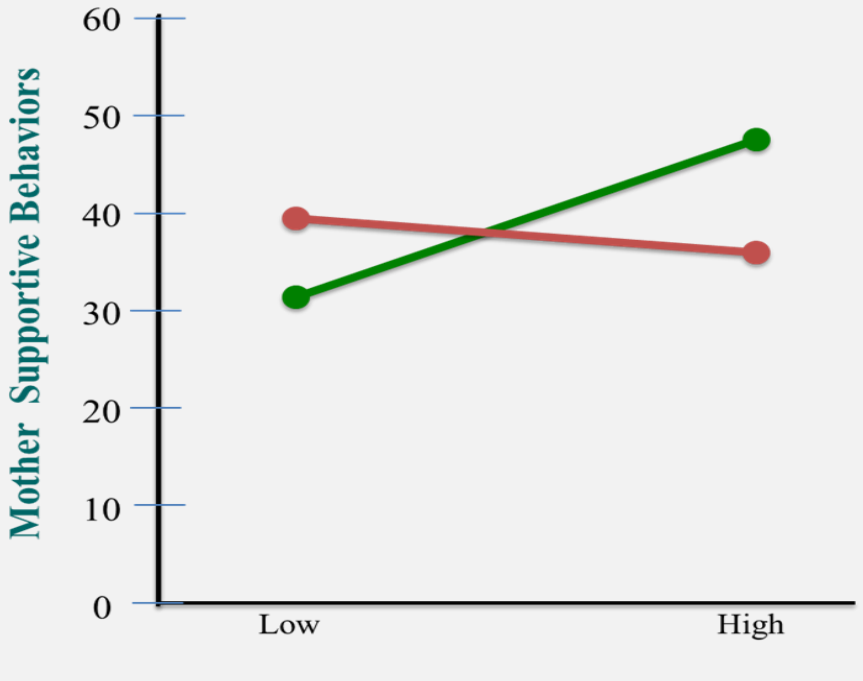
Mother Hyperactive-impulsive symptoms

Increased maternal hyperactive-impulsive symptoms was related to increase in her overreactive parenting behaviors

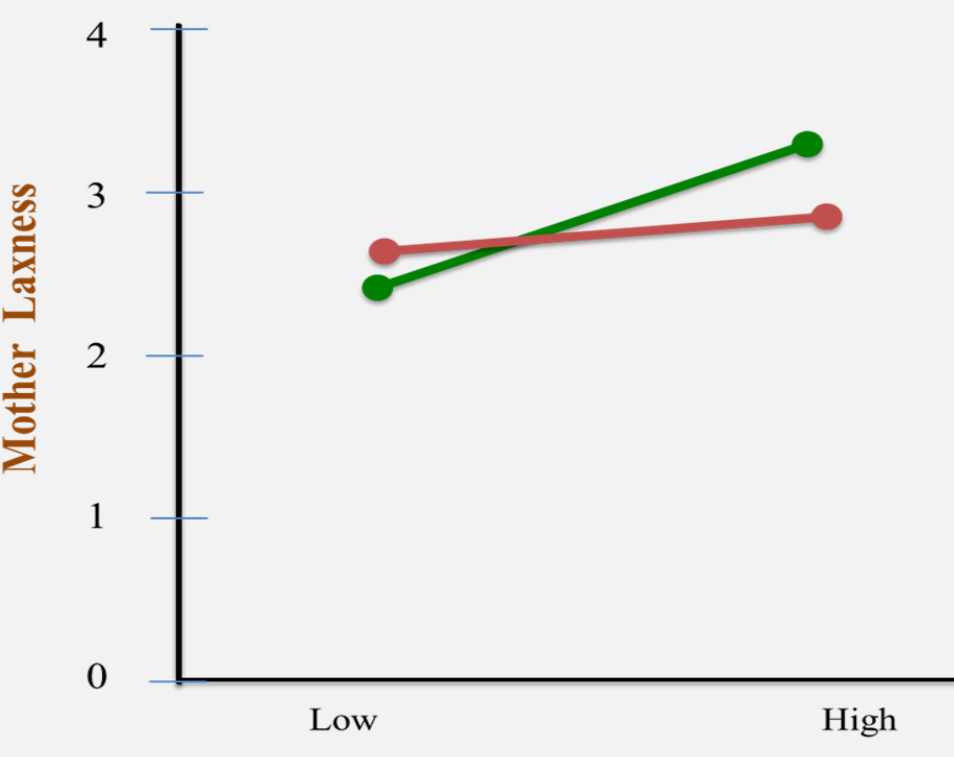
Mother Inhibitory Control



Mothers' hyperactive-impulsive symptoms were related to increase in parenting negativity in mothers with low response inhibition but to decrease in parenting negativity in mothers with high response inhibition



Mothers' hyperactive-impulsive symptoms were related to supportive parenting only in mothers with high response inhibition but not in mothers with low response inhibition.



Mothers' inattention symptoms were related to lax parenting only in mothers with high response inhibition but not in mothers with low response inhibition

- ✚ In the context of elevated maternal ADHD symptoms, response inhibition is a protective factor against the deleterious effect of ADHD symptoms on parenting behaviors.
- ✚ Increase in mothers’ hyperactive-impulsive symptoms was related to increase in mothers’ supportive parenting and decrease in parenting negativity, only in the context of high levels of maternal response inhibition.
- ✚ When mothers have high hyperactive-impulsive symptoms, but at the same time have the ability to withhold response they will manage to regulate their behaviors toward their children in the context of conflict discussion.
- ✚ It seems that response inhibition might help parents with ADHD to maintain their supportive behaviors towards their children even in emotionally and behaviorally intensive child rearing situations such as parent-child conflicts.

Selected references

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