#### Open Access Full Text Article

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

# Associations Between Psychiatric Disorders and Enuresis in Taiwanese Children: A National Population-Based Study

This article was published in the following Dove Press journal: *Clinical Epidemiology* 

Hsin-Lin Tsai<sup>1,2</sup> Jei-Wen Chang<sup>2,3</sup> Mu-Hong Chen <sup>4,5</sup> Mei-Jy Jeng <sup>3,6</sup> Ling-Yu Yang <sup>2,7</sup> Keh-Gong Wu<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Pediatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan; <sup>2</sup>Faculty of Medicine, School of Medicine, National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan; <sup>3</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan; <sup>4</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan; <sup>5</sup>Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan; <sup>6</sup>Institute of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine, National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan; <sup>7</sup>Department of Education, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan

Correspondence: Jei-Wen Chang Department of Pediatrics, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, No. 201, Sec.2, Shipai Road, Beitou District, Taipei City 11217, Taiwan, Republic of China Tel +886-2-2875-7576 Fax +886-2-2873-9019 Email jwchang@vghtpe.gov.tw



**Background:** Psychiatric disorders such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder may negatively impact drug compliance and the prognosis of enuresis. However, existing studies regarding associations between lifetime psychiatric disorders and childhood enuresis are primarily from Western countries, and studies from Taiwan are lacking.

**Methods:** We conducted a population-based retrospective cohort analysis using the Taiwan Longitudinal Health Insurance Database 2010. A total of 1,146 children with enuresis (ICD-9-CM code: 307.6) and 4,584 randomly selected sex- and age-matched controls were identified between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 2011. Logistic regression was used to estimate the odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the development of psychiatric disorders in the children with enuresis.

**Results:** Enuresis was more common in the younger children, and the rate was significantly higher in boys (58.7%) than in girls (41.3%). A total of 171 patients (14.9%) in the enuresis group had at least one psychiatric diagnosis vs 259 (5.7%) in the control group (p<0.001). Multivariate analysis showed that the presence of enuresis increased the odds of developing major depressive/dysthymic disorder (OR=2.841, 95% CI: 1.619, 4.987), attention-deficit /hyperactivity disorder (OR=3.156, 95% CI: 2.446, 4.073), autism spectrum disorder (OR=2.468, 95% CI: 1.264, 4.822), anxiety disorders (OR=3.113, 95% CI: 2.063, 4.699), intelligence disability (OR=3.989, 95% CI: 2.476, 6.426), disruptive behavior disorders (OR=3.749, 95% CI: 1.756, 8.004), and tic disorder (OR=2.660, 95% CI: 1.642, 4.308).

**Conclusion:** Children with enuresis are likely to have psychiatric disorders, and physicians should consider this during their evaluation.

Keywords: psychiatric disorder, enuresis, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, children

#### Introduction

Enuresis is defined as involuntary voiding of urine into clothes or bed in children aged 5 years old or older. On the basis of the time of occurrence, enuresis can be further divided into three subtypes, including diurnal enuresis, nocturnal enuresis and combined according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.<sup>1</sup> In contrast, the International Children's Continence Society restricts enuresis to intermittent wetting that occurs at night, while incontinence that occurs when awake is termed daytime incontinence.<sup>2</sup> Enuresis is a common problem among children and adolescents, and recent epidemiologic studies have reported an overall prevalence ranging from 3.9% to 18.9% depending on age, race/ethnicity, and definition of enuresis used.<sup>3–5</sup> Primary enuresis often resolves over time with

Clinical Epidemiology 2020:12 163-171

© 2020 Tai et al. This work is published and licensed by Dove Medical Press Limited. The full terms of this license are available at https://www.dovepress.com/terms.php you hereby accept the Terms. Non-commercial uses of the work are permitted without any further permission from Dove Medical Press Limited, provided the work is properly attributed. For permission for commercial use of this work, please see paragraphs 4.2 and 5 of our Terms (http://www.dovepress.com/terms.php).

163

a spontaneous annual remission rate of approximately 15%. In the majority of cases, parents consider enuresis to be a self-limiting problem, and therefore the decision of when to seek medical advice varies. Despite its high prevalence, prior studies have reported that only 2.1% to 55% of the parents of children with nocturnal enuresis seek medical care.<sup>6,7</sup>

A number of studies have reported an association between enuresis and an increased risk of attention-deficit /hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and 4.1% to 74.9% of subjects with enuresis have been reported to have ADHD.<sup>8–12</sup> ADHD has also been reported to be a risk factor for persistent nocturnal enuresis after treatment.<sup>13</sup> However, associations between other psychiatric disorders and enuresis are controversial. Ghanizadeh et al reported a higher incidence of oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) in children with ADHD and enuresis,<sup>14</sup> and a large population-based study from the United Kingdom reported higher rates of conduct disorder (CD), major depressive/dysthymic disorder (MDD), and anxiety disorders in children with enuresis.<sup>15</sup> In contrast, a national study from the United States did not find any associations between CD and anxiety disorders and enuresis.8

Previous studies have reported that urbanization and racial/ethnic differences are associated with different risks of developing mental disorders.<sup>16</sup> However, the existing studies regarding the occurrence of psychiatric disorders in children with enuresis are primarily from Western countries, and studies from Taiwan are lacking. In addition, the risk of comorbid psychiatric disorders in boys relative to girls with enuresis has received relatively little attention. Therefore, the aims of this study were (1) to examine the effects of urbanization on enuretic children who seek medical evaluation and treatment, (2) to determine the association between enuresis and lifetime psychiatric disorders, and (3) to examine sex differences in the association between psychiatric disorders and enuresis in Taiwanese children.

# Materials and Methods Data Source

The Taiwanese National Health Insurance (NHI) program was launched in 1995, and by the end of 2008 covered 99.48% of the population in Taiwan (<u>http://www.nhi.gov.tw</u>). The National Health Insurance Research Database (NHIRD) contains comprehensive claims records of outpatient, inpatient, and emergency care of insured individuals including

demographic data, clinical visit dates, disease diagnoses, and prescription drugs. To protect patient privacy, these data are de-identified by encrypting all personal identification information before being released for research. To ensure the accuracy of diagnostic coding in the NHIRD, the Bureau of NHI regularly randomly reviews a sample of the medical charts and claims. Fraudulent coding and overcharging by physicians and institutions are subject to severe penalties or suspensions. Data for this study were obtained from the Longitudinal Health Insurance Database 2010 (LHID 2010) provided by the National Health Research Institutes. This database is a subdataset of the NHIRD, and includes scrambled identification codes, personal information, and outpatient (ambulatory) care and inpatient care records of one million beneficiaries who were randomly selected in 2010 from the original registry of beneficiaries in the Taiwan NHI program. The NHIRD includes data on approximately 27.38 million beneficiaries of the NHI program during January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010, and the LHID 2010 represents about 3.65% of the total population in Taiwan. The NHI has reported that there are no significant differences in age, sex, or healthcare costs between the LHID and the whole insured population. In addition, new claims data of the cohort are released every year. This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Taipei Veterans General Hospital (2016-04-002AC).

# Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria for the Children with and Without Enuresis

We extracted the records of children between 5 and 18 years of age with a new diagnosis of enuresis (International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM): 307.6) with at least two medical services either at outpatient clinics or in inpatient records from January 1, 1997 to December 31, 2011. The first date of a diagnosis of enuresis was considered to be the index date. Patients with a diagnosis of neuropathic bladder (ICD-9-CM: 596.5x), neurogenic bladder due to cauda equina syndrome (ICD-9-CM: 344.61), and those with other diagnoses of urine incontinence (ICD-9-CM:788.31-788.35 and 788.37-788.39) were excluded. The control cohort was randomly selected from the LHID 2010 at a 4:1 ratio matched by age, sex, index year, and index month using the same exclusion criteria during the same period. Age was categorized into three groups: 5-6 years, 7-12 years, and 13-18 years.

#### Level of Urbanization

In Taiwan, urbanization is divided into seven strata based on population density (people per km<sup>2</sup>), percentage of residents with college level or higher education, percentage of people over 65 years of age (elderly), percentage of residents who are agricultural workers, and number of physicians per 100,000 people.<sup>17</sup> We further classified the urbanization level as urban (levels 1–2), suburban (levels 3–4), and rural (levels 5–7).

#### **Psychiatric Disorders**

We investigated associations between enuresis and the following psychiatric disorders: MDD (ICD-9-CM: 296.2, 296.3, 300.4, 311), bipolar disorder (ICD-9-CM: 296.0, 296.1, 296.4, 296.5, 296.6, 296.7, 296.80, 296.81, 296.89), ADHD (ICD-9-CM: 314), autism spectrum disorder (ASD) (ICD-9-CM: 299), anxiety disorders (ICD-9-CM: 300.0, 300.1, 300.2, 300.5, 300.6, 300.7, 300.8, 300.9), schizophrenia (ICD-9-CM: 295), ODD (ICD-9-CM: 313.81), CD (ICD-9-CM: 312), and tic disorder (ICD-9-CM: 307.2). Disruptive behavior disorders (DBD) included ODD and CD. Intelligence disability (ICD-9-CM: 317, 318, 319) was also examined. The presence of psychiatric disorders before and after the children were diagnosed with enuresis was identified.

#### Statistical Analysis

Continuous data were described as means and standard deviations (mean  $\pm$  SD), and examined using the *t*-test. Categorical data were expressed as numbers and percentages, First, we compared demographic data and psychiatric disorders between the enuresis group and non-enuresis group using Fisher's exact test or the chi-square test. We then performed univariate logistic regression analysis to assess the associations between enuresis and psychiatric disorders. Results were reported as odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs). We further estimated the ORs of developing psychiatric disorders in the children with enuresis after adjusting for sex, age, and urbanization in multivariate logistic regression analysis. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 18.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). P values of < 0.05 were considered to indicate statistical significance.

# **Results**

# Clinical Characteristics

The demographic characteristics and lifetime psychiatric disorders of the subjects are shown in Table 1. In total,

1146 children with enuresis and 4584 control children were included in the analysis. Significantly more boys (58.7%) had enuresis than girls (41.3%), and the male/female ratio was 1.42:1. Enuresis was most commonly diagnosed in children aged 7 to 12 years, with the lowest rate in those aged over 12 years. Overall, 95.5% of the children were aged 5 to 12 years, and the mean age at the first visit was 8.46±2.46 years. Most of the children lived in urban areas (62.0%), and there were no statistically significant differences in urbanization level, age and sex (all p > 0.05). Significantly more children with enuresis had psychiatric disorders (14.9%) than those without enuresis (5.7%, p <0.001) (Table 1). Sixty-seven (39.2%) of the 171 children with enuresis and psychiatric conditions had two or more psychiatric disorders. The most commonly diagnosed psychiatric disorder in the enuresis group was ADHD (112, 9.8%), followed by anxiety disorders (41, 3.6%). Children with MDD (OR=2.834, 95% CI: 1.616-4.968), ADHD (OR=3.095, 95% CI: 2.405-3.983), ASD (OR=2.453, 95% CI: 1.258-4.781), anxiety disorders (OR=3.113, 95% CI: 2.063-4.696), ODD (OR=4.820, 95% CI: 1.468-15.821), CD (OR=2.811, 95% CI: 1.068-7.401), DBD (OR=3.745, 95% CI: 1.756-7.990), and tic disorder (OR=2.645, 95% CI: 1.636–4.276), as well as intelligence disability (OR=3.974, 95% CI: 2.468-6.400), had a higher likelihood of enuresis. There was no significant difference in the age at a first diagnosis of a psychiatric disorder between the enuresis group and non-enuresis group.

# Association Between Enuresis and Psychiatric Disorders

Results of the multivariate logistic regression analysis after adjusting for age, sex and level of urbanization to compare the risks of psychiatric disorders between the enuretic and non-enuretic cohorts are shown in Table 2. The children with enuresis had greater odds of developing MDD (OR=2.841, 95% CI: 1.619, 4.987), ADHD (OR=3.156, 95% CI: 2.446, 4.073), ASD (OR=2.468, 95% CI: 1.264, 4.822), anxiety disorders (OR=3.113, 95% CI: 2.063, 4.699), intelligence disability (OR=3.989, 95% CI: 2.476, 6.426), DBD (OR=3.749, 95% CI: 1.756, 8.004), and tic disorder (OR=2.660, 95% CI: 1.642, 4.308) compared to the children without enuresis. Moreover, the children with enuresis had a 2.968-fold increased odds (95% CI: 2.413, 3.659) of having any one of the studied psychiatric disorders than those without enuresis. However, enuresis was not associated with an increased OR for bipolar disorder or schizophrenia. Data

165

	Enuresis		Non-Enuresis		P value	ORs	95% CI
	(n=1146)		(n=4584)				
	n	%		%			
Sex					1		
Male	673	58.7	2692	58.7		1	0.877–1.141
Female	473	41.3	1892	41.3		1	Reference
Age (years)					I		
5-6	390	34.0	1560	34.0		1	Reference
7–12	705	61.5	2820	61.5		1	0.871-1.148
13–18	51	4.5	204	4.5		I	0.722–1.386
Urbanization					0.889		
Urban (levels 1–2)	710	62.0	2818	61.5		1	Reference
Suburban (levels 3–4)	340	29.7	1362	29.7		0.991	0.857–1.145
Rural (levels 5–7)	96	8.4	404	8.8		0.943	0.744–1.196
Psychiatric disorders							
MDD	21	1.8	30	0.7	*<0.001	2.834	1.616-4.968
Bipolar disorder	1	0.1	7	0.2	1	0.571	0.070-4.646
ADHD	112	9.8	155	3.4	*<0.001	3.095	2.405–3.983
ASD	14	1.2	23	0.5	*0.007	2.453	1.258-4.781
Anxiety disorders	41	3.6	54	1.2	*<0.001	3.113	2.063-4.696
Schizophrenia	2	0.2	9	0.2	1	0.889	0.192-4.119
Intelligence disability	34	3.0	35	0.8	*<0.001	3.974	2.468–6.400
DBD	13	1.1	14	0.3	*<0.001	3.745	1.756–7.990
ODD	6	0.5	5	0.1	*0.012	4.820	1.468–15.821
CD	7	0.6	10	0.2	0.06	2.811	1.068–7.401
Tic disorder	28	2.4	43	0.9	*<0.001	2.645	1.636-4.276
Number of psychiatric disorders					*<0.001		
0	975	85.1	4325	94.3		1	Reference
1	104	9.1	175	3.8		2.636	2.048–3.393
2	45	3.9	64	1.4		3.119	2.117-4.596
≥3	22	1.9	20	0.4		4.879	2.653–8.976
Age at diagnosis of psychiatric disorders (years)							
MDD	14.7±4.0		16.3±2.9		0.092		
Bipolar disorder	11.8		14.6±4.2		0.557		
ADHD	7.8±2.8		8.4±3.1		0.095		
ASD	7.4±3.9		6.9±4.3		0.710		
Anxiety disorders	11.2±4.7		12.3±4.9		0.266		
Schizophrenia	18.1±3.7		15.3±1.8		0.117		
Intelligence disability	8.6±3.8		10.3±5.4		0.137		
DBD							
ODD	11.0±2.4		10.0±4.1		0.637		
CD	10.7±3.4		12.5±2.5		0.242		
Tic disorder	9.7±3.2		9.5±3.1		0.791		

Table I	Comp	arisons of D	emographic	Data and	Psychiatric	Disorders	Between	the Enuresi	s and No	n-Enuresis	Groups	with Odds
Ratios (	ORs) M	leasured in l	Jnivariate Lo	gistic Reg	ression An	alysis						

Note: \*Fisher's exact test or Chi-square test P<0.05.

regarding sex, age, and level of urbanization are not shown. Tables 3 and 4 show the associations between psychiatric disorders in the boys and girls with enuresis, respectively. For both sexes, enuresis was significantly associated with MDD, ADHD, anxiety disorders, intelligence disability, DBD and tic disorder. The OR of the patients with enuresis suffering

	ΔQM		Bipola	r Disorder	Арнр		ASD		Anxiety	/ Disorders	Schizop	hrenia	Intellig Disabili	en ce ity	DBD		Tic Dis	sorder	Any Or Psychia Disorde	e of the tric r Studied
	OR	95% CI	QR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	R	95% CI	R	95% CI	R	95% CI	R	95% CI	Я	95% CI	Я	95% CI	R	95% CI
AII	2.841	1.619-4.987	0.572	0.070-4.659	3.156	2.446-4.073	2.468	1.264-4.822	3.113	2.063-4.699	0.882	0.190-4.098	3.989	2.476-6.426	3.749	1.756-8.004	2.660	I.642-4.308	2.968	2.413-3.649
children																				
with																				
enuresis																				
P value	< 0.001		0.602		<0.001		0.008		<0.001		0.873		<0.001		0.001		<0.001		<0.001	
	:																			

Table 2 Odds Ratios for the Risk of Psychiatric Disorders in All Children with Enuresis Compared to Those Without Enuresis in Multivariate Logistic Regression Analysis

Clinical Epidemiology 2020:12

Note: Adjusted for sex, age and urbanization.

	One of the natric ders Studied	95% CI
	Any ( Psych Disor	В
S	sorder	95% CI
vnalysi	Tic Di	OR
gression A		95% CI
stic Re	DBD	OR
ivariate Logi	igence ility	95% CI
Multi	Intelli Disabi	QR
Enuresis in	phrenia	95% CI
thout	Schizo	OR
Those Wi	ty Disorders	95% CI
red to	Anxiet	OR
esis Compa		95% CI
Enure	ASD	ß
n Boys with	0	95% CI
ders i	ADHI	OR
atric Disor	r Disorder	95% CI
Psychi	Bipola	OR
Ratios for		95% CI
sppO	ΔDΜ	OR
Table 3		

urbanization.
and
age
for
Adjusted
Note:

Г

2.225-3.622

2.839

1.501-4.212

2.515

1.270-7.221

3.028

2.138-7.160

3.912

0.093-6.899

0.800

1.839-5.275

3.114

1.309-5.357

2.649

2.160-3.835

2.878

0.000-0.000

0.000

1.622-8.416

3.695

Boys with

<0.001

<0.001

0.012

<0.001

0.839

<0.001

0.007

<0.001

0.992

0.002

P value

enuresis

able 4		atios tor	Fsycnia	ITTIC UISOR	JI STOP	ו פורוג אונו	Enure	isis Compar	OI DƏ.	I nose vvi	thout t	cnuresis in	Muitiv	ariate Log	STIC N	egression 🗕	vnalysis			
	DOM		Bipola	r Disorder	ADHC	0	ASD		Anxiety	r Disorders	Schizop	ohrenia	Intellig Disabili	ence	DBD		Tic Dis	order	Any On the Psy Disorde Studied	e of chiatric rs
	ß	95% CI	QR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	R	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	OR	95% CI	Я	95% CI
Girls with	2.247	1.028-4.910	1.024	0.114-9.205	4.501	2.557-7.923	1.322	0.137-12.742	3.180	1.643–6.155	0.997	0.111-8.955	4.142	1.904-9.009	8.085	1.468-44.521	4.070	1.013-16.356	3.329	2.250-4.926
enuresis																				
P value	0.042		0.983		<0.001		0.809		0.001		866.0		<0.001		0.016		0.048		<0.001	
Note: Adju	sted for a	ge and urbar	nization.																	

from ASD was significantly higher in the boys (OR=2.649; 95% CI, 1.309, 5.357) but not in the girls (OR=1.322; 95% CI, 0.137, 12.742). In sex-stratified analysis, the boys had a higher OR of developing MDD and ASD than the girls. However, the ORs of ADHD, anxiety disorders, intelligence disability, DBD disorder and tic disorder were much higher in the girls with enuresis than in the boys with enuresis.

#### Discussion

Enuresis is a common problem in children. Controversy with regards to the pathophysiology of enuresis has existed for many years. A higher risk of enuresis has also been reported in boys than in girls. In the current study, the boys had a 1.42-fold higher rate of enuresis than the girls, which is consistent with previous studies.<sup>3</sup> In addition, our findings also support previous research that enuresis occurs more commonly at a younger age, and then tends to decrease with age.

Epidemiological studies have reported that children with enuresis are two to four times as likely to have behavioral problems as children without enuresis.<sup>18,19</sup> Our results are consistent with the previous studies, in that 14.9% of the children with enuresis had psychiatric disorders, and they were 2.968-fold more likely to have psychiatric disorders than those without enuresis. The rates of associated psychiatric disorders except ADHD in the present study were all much lower than the rate reported in a previous study.<sup>15</sup> The high rate of co-morbidity of enuresis and ADHD (predominantly the inattentive type) has been thoroughly studied.<sup>8,12</sup> Shreeram at al. reported that the OR of having ADHD in children with enuresis was 2.88.8 In the current study, ADHD was the most common psychiatric disorder associated with enuresis, and 9.8% of the children with enuresis were diagnosed with ADHD compared to 3.4% of those without enuresis. We also found that the children with enuresis had a 3.156-fold increased odds of having ADHD compared to those without enuresis. In our enuresis cohort, the rate of comorbidity with ADHD was similar to that reported by von Gontard et al<sup>20</sup> but lower than that reported in a specialized tertiary care setting.<sup>10</sup> Several studies recruiting children with ADHD reported that 12.1-32% of the children also had clinical symptoms of enuresis,<sup>21-23</sup> which supports that enuresis may coexist with ADHD and vice versa.

In addition to ADHD, it has been demonstrated that enuretic children have higher rates of psychiatric disorders such as depressive problems,<sup>15</sup> ODD,<sup>15</sup> CD,<sup>15</sup> obsessive-

168

disorder,<sup>24</sup> schizophrenia,<sup>25</sup> compulsive Tourette syndrome,<sup>26</sup> ASD,<sup>27</sup> and anxiety disorders.<sup>15</sup> We found higher odds of having MDD, ADHD, ASD, anxiety disorders, intelligence disability, DBD and tic disorder in the children with enuresis in multivariate logistic analysis. However, anxiety disorders other than DBD<sup>15</sup> were the second most common comorbid psychiatric disorders in the current study. Males have been reported to be at a greater risk of ADHD and enuresis and also other psychiatric disorders such as ASD, intellectual disability and communication disorders, Tourette syndrome, ODD, CD, and schizophrenia, while female predominance has been observed in adolescent-onset emotional disorders such as depressive and anxiety disorders.<sup>28</sup> We also investigated whether or not enuresis was a sex-dependent risk factor for ADHD and other psychiatric disorders. Both the boys and girls with enuresis had more psychiatric problems, but surprisingly, we found that the girls with enuresis had higher odds of developing ADHD as well as DBD, tic disorder, and intelligence disability, compared with the boys, which is in contrast to previous clinical studies.<sup>29</sup> Consistent with previous epidemiological studies, we also found that the girls had a higher rate of anxiety disorders. This higher odds of ADHD and other psychiatric disorders in girls may be because girls are more likely to visit a healthcare provider for behavioral problems or emotional issues than boys.

The etiologies of both enuresis and ADHD are multifactorial and controversial. There are some similarities between these two disorders, and researchers have shown that both primary nocturnal enuresis and ADHD appear to be heritable, with a complex inheritance model,<sup>30,31</sup> male predominance, and the tendency to improve with age. Although many studies have reported an association between enuresis and ADHD, whether or not there is a direct causal relationship is unknown. Previous neuropathological, neuroimaging and neuropsychological studies have demonstrated that both enuresis and ADHD are related to a delay in central nervous system maturation.<sup>32,33</sup> However, genetic studies have shown that enuresis-related genes on chromosomes 8, 12, 13 and 22 are not associated with ADHD.<sup>34</sup>

ADHD may negatively impact drug compliance and the prognosis of enuresis, and one study reported a noncompliance rate of 48% in patients with coexisting ADHD.<sup>35</sup> In addition, children with ADHD have been reported to be three times more likely to have persistent enuresis into adolescence or young adulthood.<sup>13</sup> Effective ADHD medications such as methylphenidate,<sup>36</sup> tricyclic antidepressants, and atomoxetine<sup>37</sup> have been reported to be effective for enuresis. In contrast, drugs used for the treatment of coexisting psychiatric disorders in patients with ADHD such as second-generation antipsychotic drugs may cause enuresis.<sup>38</sup> Coexisting psychiatric disorders should be taken into consideration during the assessment and treatment of children with both enuresis and ADHD. Moreover, clinicians should closely monitor the adherence to medications, their effects and any adverse events.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study with the largest sample size to provide evidence of the significant associations between enuresis and an extensive range of psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents in Taiwan over a 15-year study period. Most previous studies of the psychiatric problems associated with enuresis have been based on questionnaires and parent- or teacher-reported behavioral problems, leading to the possibility of over- or under-estimation of the psychiatric problems. The use of a nationwide population-based database of health care in our study avoided selection bias when recruiting the study subjects and avoided recall bias when filling out questionnaires. In addition, the diagnoses of enuresis and psychiatric disorders in this study were validated in medical evaluations by board-certified physicians and psychiatrists, resulting in better diagnostic validity. Nevertheless, there are several limitations related to the LHID 2010 database. First, it lacks information on annual household income, parental education, and family history of enuresis, which are known risk factors for enuresis. Second, the diagnoses of enuresis and psychiatric disorders were dependent on ICD codes used in the NHIRD database, and so children with enuresis who did not seek professional help for either enuresis, ADHD or another psychiatric disorder may have resulted in underestimation of the prevalence of enuresis or psychiatric disorders. Third, the exact proportions of day wetters only, day and night wetters, and nocturnal enuretics only were not available in our enuretic cohort as the definition of enuresis has been revised over the past years, and varied definitions of enuresis are used by different specialists. The enuretic cohort therefore potentially included some day wetters only or day and night wetters which may have impacted the prevalence of comorbidities of psychiatric disorders.<sup>39</sup>

#### Conclusions

Based on the results of the current and previous studies, children with enuresis have an increased rate of psychiatric disorders, with ADHD being the most prevalent. Further studies are needed to elucidate the mechanisms between the high rate of the coexistence of enuresis and psychiatric disorders. The results of this study may provide important implications for therapeutic interventions for children with enuresis. Clinicians should routinely screen for the coexistence of enuresis and psycho-behavioral disorders and vice versa. Therapy should be individualized based on the presence of comorbidities to ensure optimal outcomes.

### **Abbreviations**

ADHD, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; ASD, autism spectrum disorder; CD, conduct disorder; CI, confidence interval; DBD, disruptive behavior disorders; ICD-9-CM, International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification; LHID 2010, Longitudinal Health Insurance Database 2010; MDD, major depressive/dysthymic disorder; NHI, National Health Insurance; NHIRD, National Health Insurance Research Database; ODD, oppositional defiant disorder; OR, odds ratio.

## Acknowledgment

This study was supported by a grant from Taipei Veterans General Hospital (V105C-126) in Taiwan.

### **Author Contributions**

All authors contributed to data analysis, drafting and revising the article, gave final approval of the version to be published, and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

# Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

# References

- von Gontard A. Elimination disorders: a critical comment on DSM-5 proposals. *Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2011;20(2):83–88. doi:10. 1007/s00787-010-0152-2
- Nevéus T, von Gontard A, Hoebeke P, et al. The standardization of terminology of lower urinary tract function in children and adolescents: report from the Standardization Committee of the International Children's Continence Society. J Urol. 2006;176(1):314–324. doi:10.1016/S0022-5347(06)00305-3
- Chang P, Chen WJ, Tsai WY, Chiu YN. An epidemiological study of nocturnal enuresis in Taiwanese children. *BJU Int.* 2001;87:678–681. doi:10.1046/j.1464-410x.2001.02161.x
- 4. Hansakunachai T, Ruangdaraganon N, Udomsubpayakul U, Sombuntham T, Kotchabhakdi N. Epidemiology of enuresis among school-age children in Thailand. *J Dev Behav Pediatr.* 2005;26 (5):356–360. doi:10.1097/00004703-200510000-00003
- Bower WF, Moore KH, Shepherd RB, Adams RD. The epidemiology of childhood enuresis in Australia. Br J Urol. 1996;78:602–606. doi:10.1046/j.1464-410X.1996.13618.x

- Etuk IS, Ikpeme O, Essiet GA. Nocturnal enuresis and its treatment among primary school children in Calabar Nigeria. *Niger J Paediatr*. 2011;38(2):78–81. doi:10.4314/njp.v38i2.72248
- Schlomer B, Rodriguez E, Weiss D, Copp H. Parental beliefs about nocturnal enuresis causes, treatments, and the need to seek professional medical care. *J Pediatr Urol.* 2013;9(6 Pt B):1043–1048. doi:10.1016/j.jpurol.2013.02.013
- Shreeram S, He JP, Kalaydjian A, Brothers S, Merikangas KR. Prevalence of enuresis and its association with attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder among U.S. children: results from a nationally representative study. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2009;48(1):35–41. doi:10.1097/CHI.0b013e318190045c
- Baeyens D, Roeyers H, Van Erdeghem S, Hoebeke P, Vande Walle J. The prevalence of attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder in children with nonmonosymptomatic nocturnal enuresis: a 4-year follow up study. *J Urol.* 2007;178(6):2616–2620. doi:10.1016/j.juro.2007.07.059
- Baeyens D, Roeyers H, D'Haese L, Pieters F, Hoebeke P, Vande Walle J. The prevalence of ADHD in children with enuresis: comparison between a tertiary and non-tertiary care sample. *Acta Paediatr.* 2006;95(3):347–352. doi:10.1080/08035250500434736
- 11. Steinhausen HC, Göbel D. Enuresis in child psychiatric clinic patients. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 1989;28(2):279–281. doi:10.1097/00004583-198903000-00022
- Amiri S, Shafiee-Kandjani AR, Naghinezhad R, Farhang S, Abdi S. Comorbid psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents with nocturnal enuresis. *Urol J.* 2017;14(1):2968–2972.
- Baeyens D, Roeyers H, Demeyere I, Verté S, Hoebeke P, Vande Walle J. Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) as a risk factor for persistent nocturnal enuresis in children: a two-year follow-up study. *Acta Paediatr.* 2005;94(11):1619–1625. doi:10.10 80/08035250510041240
- Ghanizadeh A. Comorbidity of enuresis in children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. J Atten Disord. 2010;13 (5):464–467. doi:10.1177/1087054709332411
- Joinson C, Heron J, Emond A, Butler R. Psychological problems in children with bedwetting and combined (day and night) wetting: A UK population-based study. J Pediatr Psychol. 2007;32(5):6 05–616. doi:10.1093/jpepsy/jsl039
- Weaver A, Himle JA, Taylor RJ, Matusko NN, Abelson JM. Urban vs rural residence and the prevalence of depression and mood disorder among African American women and non-Hispanic white women. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2015;72(6):576–583. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry. 2015.10
- 17. Liu CY, Hung YT, Chuang YL, et al. Incorporating development stratification of Taiwan townships into sampling design of large scale health interview survey. *J Health Manag.* 2006;4:1–22.
- Gulisano M, Domini C, Capelli M, Pellico A, Rizzo R. Importance of neuropsychiatric evaluation in children with primary monosymptomatic enuresis. *J Pediatr Urol.* 2017;13(1):36.e1-36.
- Byrd RS, Weitzman M, Lanphear NE, Auinger P. Bed-wetting in US children: epidemiology and related behavior problems. *Pediatrics*. 1996;98:414–419.
- 20. von Gontard A, Moritz AM, Thome-Granz S, Freitag C. Association of attention deficit and elimination disorders at school entry: a population based study. *J Urol.* 2011;186(5):2027–2032. doi:10. 1016/j.juro.2011.07.030
- Amiri S, Shafiee-Kandjani AR, Fakhari A, et al. Psychiatric comorbidities in ADHD children: an Iranian study among primary school students. *Arch Iran Med.* 2013;16(9):513–517. doi:10.13169/AIM.006
- 22. Mellon MW, Natchev BE, Katusic SK, et al. Incidence of enuresis and encopresis among children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in a population-based birth cohort. *Acad Pediatr.* 2013;13 (4):322–327. doi:10.1016/j.acap.2013.02.008
- Biederman J, Santangelo SL, Faraone SV, et al. Clinical correlates of enuresis in ADHD and non-ADHD children. J Child Psychol Psychiatry. 1995;36(5):865–877. doi:10.1111/jcpp.1995.36.issue-5

- 24. Yousefichaijan P, Khosrobeigi A, Salehi B, et al. Incidence of obsessive-compulsive disorder in children with nonmonosymptomatic primary nocturnal enuresis. J Pediatr Neuosci. 2016;11
- (3):197–199. doi:10.4103/1817-1745.193371
  25. Hyde TM, Deep-Soboslay A, Iglesias B, et al. Enuresis as premorbid developmental marker of schizophrenia. *Brain*. 2008;131(Pt 9):24 89–2498. doi:10.1093/brain/awn167
- Comings DE, Comings BG. A controlled study of Tourette syndrome. VI. Early development, sleep problems, allergies, and handedness. *Am J Hum Genet*. 1987;41:822–838.
- von Gontard A, Pirrung M, Niemczyk J, Equit M. Incontinence in children with autism spectrum disorder. J Pediatr Urol. 2015;11 (5):264.e1-7. doi:10.1016/j.jpurol.2015.04.015
- Park JH, Bang YR, Kim CK. Sex and age differences in psychiatric disorders among children and adolescents: high-risk students study. *Psychiatry Investig.* 2014;11(3):251–257. doi:10.4306/pi.2014.11.3. 251
- 29. Quintero J. Enuresis and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children and adolescents. *Clinics Mother Child Health*. 2014;11:160.
- Arnell H, Hjälmås K, Jägervall M, et al. The genetics of primary nocturnal enuresis: inheritance and suggestion of a second major gene on chromo-some 12q. *J Med Genet*. 1997;34:360–365. doi:10.1136/ jmg.34.5.360
- Thapar A, Cooper M. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Lancet. 2016;387(10024):1240–1250. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(15) 00238-X
- 32. Fernández A, Quintero J, Hornero R, et al. Complexity analysis of spontaneous brain activity in attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: diagnosticimplications. *Biol Psychiatry*. 2009;65(7):571–577. doi:10. 1016/j.biopsych.2008.10.046

- 33. Lei D, Ma J, Shen X, et al. Changes in the Brain Microstructure of Children with Primary Monosymptomatic Nocturnal Enuresis: A Diffusion Tensor Imaging Study. *PLoS One.* 2012;7(2):e31023. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0031023
- 34. Elia J, Takeda T, Deberardinis R, et al. Nocturnal enuresis: a suggestive endophenotype marker for a subgroup of inattentive attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. J Pediatr. 2009;155 (2):239–244. doi:10.1016/j.jpeds.2009.02.031
- 35. Crimmins CR, Rathburn SR, Husman DA. Management of urinary incontinence and nocturnal enuresis in attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. J Urol. 2003;170(4 Pt 1):1347–1350. doi:10.1097/01. ju.0000084669.59166.16
- 36. Bahali K, Ipek H, Uneri OS. Methylphenidate and atomoxetine for treatment of nocturnal enuresis in a child with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. *Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry*. 2013;22 (10):649–650. doi:10.1007/s00787-013-0414-x
- Sumner CR, Schuh KJ, Sutton VK, Lipetz R, Kelsey DK. Placebocontrolled study of the effects of atomoxetine on bladder control in children with nocturnal enuresis. *J Child Adolesc Psychopharmacol*. 2006;16(6):699–711. doi:10.1089/cap.2006.16.699
- Barnes TR, Drake MJ, Paton C. Nocturnal enuresis with antipsychotic medication. *Br J Psychiatry*. 2012;200(1):7–9. doi:10.1192/bjp. bp.111.095737
- von Gontard A, Mauer-Mucke K, Plück J, Berner W, Lehmkuhl G. Clinical behavioral problems in day- and night-wetting children. *Pediatr Nephrol.* 1999;13(8):662–667. doi:10.1007/s004670050677

#### **Clinical Epidemiology**

#### **Dove**press

#### Publish your work in this journal

Clinical Epidemiology is an international, peer-reviewed, open access, online journal focusing on disease and drug epidemiology, identification of risk factors and screening procedures to develop optimal preventative initiatives and programs. Specific topics include: diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, screening, prevention, risk factor modification,

Submit your manuscript here: https://www.dovepress.com/clinical-epidemiology-journal

systematic reviews, risk & safety of medical interventions, epidemiology & biostatistical methods, and evaluation of guidelines, translational medicine, health policies & economic evaluations. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use.