

Trigeminal nerve stimulation beats sham tx for peds ADHD

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(HealthDay)—Trigeminal nerve stimulation (TNS) showed efficacy

when compared with a similar sham procedure for the treatment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children, according to a double-blind, controlled pilot study published in the April issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry*.

James J. McGough, M.D., from the University of California in Los Angeles, and colleagues randomly assigned 62 children (aged 8 to 12 years with full-scale IQ of ≥ 85) diagnosed with ADHD to four weeks of nightly treatment with either active or sham TNS followed by one week without intervention. Study assessments included weekly clinician-administered ADHD Rating Scales (ADHD-RS) and Clinical Global Impression (CGI) scales plus quantitative electroencephalography at baseline and week 4.

The researchers found that ADHD-RS total scores showed significant group-by-time interactions. Active treatment was also associated with CGI-Improvement (number needed to treat was three). There was increased spectral power in the right frontal and frontal midline frequency bands with active TNS, as seen on resting-state quantitative electroencephalography. No clinically meaningful adverse events were reported in either group.

"Additional research should examine treatment response durability and potential impact on [brain development](#) with sustained use," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to NeuroSigma, which provided the study devices.

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