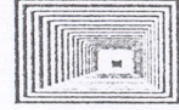
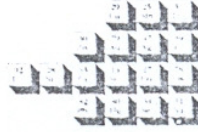




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UNESCO  
Satellite Trace Element Center  
(Ankara)

SECOND INTERNATIONAL  
ZINC SYMPOSIUM

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ABSTRACTS

## ZINC STATUS IN CHILDREN WITH "ADHD"

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ADHD is characterized by lack of attention, hyperactivity not compatible with the age of the child and growth pattern and, inefficiency in controlling of impulses as well as easy excitability.

There have been several hypotheses proposed to explain the etiology of ADHD. Most of the studies suggest metabolic, circulatory, toxic factors during the prenatal period or perinatal slight brain damage from infections, stress or trauma during the first years of life. Deficiency of trace elements such as zinc (Zn) and iron (Fe) are known to have neuro-psychological effects with behavioral changes. There have been no study examining the effects of trace elements on ADHD so far. Therefore, in 27 children with ADHD, aged 7-14 years, plasma and hair Zn concentrations were measured in addition to Fe determinations and transferring saturation. There were no difference between the patients and control children in plasma Zn and Fe levels. However, hair Zn concentration was found to be low in children with ADHD. This interesting finding requires further study.