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[Home](#) > [News](#) > Behavioural incentives mimic effects of medication on brain systems in ADHD

NEWS ARTICLE



Behavioural incentives mimic effects of medication on brain systems in ADHD

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Medication and behavioural interventions help children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) better maintain attention and self control by normalising activity in the same brain systems, according to researchers at The University of Nottingham.

In a study, funded by the Wellcome Trust and published today in the journal Biological Psychiatry, researchers led by Chris Hollis, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, in the School of Community Health Sciences, have shown that medication has the most significant effect on brain function in children with ADHD, this effect can be boosted by complementary use of rewards and incentives which appear to mimic the effects of medication on brain systems.

Professor Chris Hollis said: "Our research may help reconcile the often-polarised debate between those who advocate either medication on the one hand, or psychological/behavioural therapy on the other".

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Story Credits

More information is available from Professor Chris Hollis on +44 (0)115 823 0258, chris.hollis@nottingham.ac.uk; or Craig Brierly at the Wellcome Trust on +44 (0) 20 7611 7329,

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