Reply from Author:

Dear Editor,

We thank the author for his valuable comments.

Indeed, as far as we are aware, CBCL has not been validated for the assessment of sleep disorders, and the individual sleep problem items have not been correlated with specific sleep-related disorders. We thank you for emphasizing this and further studies will be needed to examine this.

We reported that ADHD subjects’ parents were more likely to report that their children “sleep less” -- this is based on the CBCL. However, it may not necessarily be true that even if ADHD children do actually have a shorter period of sleep than normal children, that parents of normal children will report that their children “sleep more” (which technically in this case will be “normal” sleep period than “more”). We agree that such parental reports are subjective and prone to recall bias, and emphasise that objective measurements of the actual duration of sleep will be the most accurate method.

Finally, we thank the author for pointing out the discrepancy in the description of our results. We wish to clarify that the statement “Analyses from chi-square revealed that a significant number of children with ADHD reported less sleep problem” referred to the parent reporting that their children “sleep less” and, as pointed out, is the only item which was statistically significant different between the 2 groups. The other statistically significant finding (using t-test) was the higher mean summation score for the sleep problem items for ADHD children compared to the normal children as reported by parents, hence leading to our conclusion that there may be an overall higher incidence of sleep problems in ADHD children compared to normal children. It is possible that the individual problem item scores (other than “sleep less”) may not be sensitive enough to pick up any real difference between the 2 groups; further studies to elucidate this will be useful.

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