Today’s piece was prepared by Jono Berry, MD, based on a CBS article [ADHD: Are we overmedicating our kids?](http://www.krem.com/story/news/health/2015/11/11/adhd-are-we-overmedicating-our-kids/75570872/)

This article asks whether American physicians over-diagnose children with ADHD and subsequently over-medicate them. The author compares America, where 11% of children are diagnosed with ADHD, with France, where fewer than 1% of children carry the diagnosis. The article also brings up the idea that US pharmaceutical companies are to blame for this disparity. The three main sources for the article are a family therapist who argues that ADHD is over-diagnosed, a developmental pediatrician who provides an opposing opinion, and a third developmental pediatrician who argues somewhere in the middle.

The article reduces the issue to a very black and white one. The author uses the developmental pediatrician’s claim that ADHD is real diagnosis with “evidence-based assessment and treatment” as a counterpoint to the initial idea that ADHD is over-diagnosed without acknowledging that both could be true. The idea that some children are incorrectly diagnosed with ADHD and the idea that ADHD is a real disorder are not mutually exclusive. In addition, it fails to acknowledge that ADHD diagnoses are rising worldwide as awareness of the disorder increases, merely identifying the example of France as a comparison point.

The author does, however, conclude by acknowledging that each child must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The following resources are helpful:

**RESOURCES ON ADHD DIAGNOSIS & MANAGEMENT:**

[ADHD – A Guide For Families](http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Resource_Centers/ADHD_Resource_Center/ADHD_A_Guide_for_Families/Home.aspx) America Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry *Excellent site with videos & other resources*

[Diagnosing ADHD in Children and Adults](http://www.additudemag.com/channel/adhd-symptoms-diagnosis/index.html) Additude Magazine

*Site walks through the process of diagnosing ADHD and helps parents differentiate between typical vs. atypical behaviors of childhood*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!