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# 1 INDIVIDUALIZED PREDICTION MODELS IN ADHD:

## 2 A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-REGRESSION

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60

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69

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76

77 **ABSTRACT**

78 There have been increasing efforts to develop prediction models supporting personalised  
79 detection, prediction, or treatment of ADHD. We overviewed the current status of prediction  
80 science in ADHD by: 1) systematically reviewing and appraising available prediction models;  
81 2) quantitatively assessing factors impacting the performance of published models. We did a  
82 PRISMA/CHARMS/TRIPOD-compliant systematic review (PROSPERO: CRD42023387502),  
83 searching, until 20/12/2023, studies reporting internally and/or externally validated  
84 diagnostic/prognostic/treatment-response prediction models in ADHD. Using meta-  
85 regression, we explored the impact of factors affecting the area under the curve (AUC) of the  
86 models. We assessed the study risk of bias with the Prediction Model Risk of Bias Assessment  
87 Tool (PROBAST). From 7,764 identified records, 100 prediction models were included (88%  
88 diagnostic, 5% prognostic, and 7% treatment-response). Of these, 96% and 7% were  
89 internally and externally validated, respectively. None was implemented in clinical practice.  
90 Only 8% of the models were deemed at low risk of bias; 67% were considered at high risk of  
91 bias. Clinical, neuroimaging, and cognitive predictors were used in 35%, 31%, and 27% of the  
92 studies, respectively. The performance of ADHD prediction models was increased in those  
93 models including, compared to those models not including, clinical predictors ( $\beta=6.54$ ,  
94  $p=0.007$ ). Type of validation, age range, type of model, number of predictors, study quality,  
95 and other type of predictors did not alter the AUC. Several prediction models have been  
96 developed to support the diagnosis of ADHD. However, efforts to predict outcomes or  
97 treatment response have been limited, and none of the available models is ready for  
98 implementation into clinical practice. The use of clinical predictors, which may be combined  
99 with other type of predictors, seems to improve the performance of the models. A new  
100 generation of research should address these gaps by conducting high quality, replicable, and  
101 externally validated models, followed by implementation research.

102 **Key words:** ADHD; Prediction models; Risk; Prediction; Evidence.

103 **INTRODUCTION**

104 Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)<sup>1</sup> is a neurodevelopmental condition which is  
105 characterized by age-inappropriate and impairing inattention and/or hyperactivity/impulsivity.  
106 Over the past decades, neurobiological research has resulted in a shift in the understanding  
107 of the pathophysiology of ADHD, from theoretical views of isolated brain dysfunctions to more  
108 complex models reflecting the heterogeneity of the clinical manifestations of ADHD<sup>2</sup>. However,  
109 neurobiological findings have not yet impacted clinical practice and, currently, the diagnosis of  
110 ADHD is exclusively based on a clinical assessment, with no established objective tests being  
111 available as standalone tools to diagnose ADHD<sup>3</sup>. The exact factors that predict the  
112 persistence of ADHD beyond adolescence are currently unclear. Furthermore, while effective  
113 (at least in the short-term) treatments are available<sup>4</sup>, there are no established evidence-based  
114 prediction models to inform individualized treatment strategies based on the patient's clinical,  
115 environmental, cognitive, genetic, or biological characteristics.

116 In the last decade, the new field of precision psychiatry has emerged, with the development of  
117 multivariable prediction models aimed at predicting the diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment  
118 response in relation to several mental health conditions<sup>5, 6</sup>, considering individual variability in  
119 clinical characteristics, genes, environment, and lifestyle<sup>7</sup>. Advances in the field of prediction  
120 modelling have allowed the consolidation of an evidence-based science of precision  
121 medicine<sup>8</sup>. Prediction modelling studies investigate the development of such models, as well  
122 as their validation<sup>9</sup>. External validity is the extent to which predictions can be generalized to  
123 the data from other settings, while internal validity is the extent to which the predictions fit the  
124 derivation data<sup>10</sup>.

125

126 Previous systematic reviews have identified a large number of prediction models across mental  
127 health conditions<sup>10, 11</sup>. Notably, in the last few years there has been a rapidly increasing interest  
128 in this field, and an emerging number of prediction models on ADHD have been rapidly

129 published, making an updated evaluation of the status of the field essential. Furthermore, to  
130 our knowledge, no study has comprehensively and specifically reviewed the status of validated  
131 prediction models in ADHD, systematically assessing factors that can affect their predictive  
132 performance. Therefore, our primary aim was to systematically review and critically appraise  
133 available prediction models that might be considered for clinical use in the identification or  
134 management of ADHD. Our secondary aim was to test potential moderating factors that could  
135 affect the performance of available models as measured by their area under the curve (AUC),  
136 the most reliable and most reported metric across studies.

137

## 138 **METHODS**

139 This study (pre-registered protocol: PROSPERO:CRD42023387502) was conducted and  
140 reported in accordance with the “Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-  
141 analyses” (PRISMA) 2020 and the “Transparent Reporting of a multivariable prediction model  
142 for Individual Prognosis Or Diagnosis” (TRIPOD) statements and checklists (Tables S1-4,  
143 available online).

144

### 145 **Search strategy and selection criteria**

146 PubMed and Web of Science database including Web of Science Core Collection, BIOSIS  
147 Citation Index, KCI-Korean Journal Database, MEDLINE, Russian Science Citation Index, and  
148 SciELO Citation Index, Cochrane Central Register of Reviews, Embase and Ovid/PsycINFO  
149 databases, were searched from inception until 20/12/2023 with no language restrictions  
150 (search terms/syntax in Supplement 1, available online). The references of the included  
151 articles and those in previous relevant reviews were manually searched to identify any possible  
152 additional relevant studies. Titles and abstracts were screened, and, after the exclusion of  
153 those not relevant, the full texts were assessed against the inclusion and exclusion criteria by  
154 a group of researchers who worked independently in pairs on one third of the hits each (G.S.P.,  
155 A.B., A.C., M.D., A.C., H.S., V.P.).

156

157 The inclusion criteria were: (a) original individual studies; (b) conducted in children and/or  
158 adults with ADHD according to established diagnostic criteria (DSM or ICD - any version); (c)  
159 reporting on multivariable internally and/or externally<sup>12</sup> validated prediction models; (d)  
160 providing diagnostic, prognostic, or treatment-response estimates at the individual subject  
161 level or in subgroups; (e) providing at least discrimination as per the AUC (i.e., the ability of  
162 the model to separate individuals who develop events from those who do not), accuracy (i.e.,  
163 the degree of closeness of the measured value), or classification measures (sensitivity,  
164 specificity, or predictive values) (definitions in Table 1). The exclusion criteria were: (a)  
165 abstracts, conference proceedings, reviews, or meta-analyses; (b) prediction model studies  
166 that did not evaluate or report their internal or external validation; (c) predictor-finding studies  
167 that included one predictor only.

#### 168 **Descriptive measures and data extraction**

169 Data extraction items (Supplement 2, available online) were based on the “Checklist for critical  
170 Appraisal and data extraction for systematic Reviews of prediction Modelling Studies”  
171 (CHARMS) and the “Transparent Reporting of a multivariable prediction model for Individual  
172 Prognosis Or Diagnosis” (TRIPOD) statements. The model’s ability to separate individuals with  
173 and without the outcome, e.g., AUC, was selected as the main outcome. Discriminative validity  
174 is usually considered ‘acceptable’ when AUC scores are between 0.7-0.8, ‘good’ between 0.8-  
175 0.9, and ‘excellent’ when >0.9<sup>13</sup>. We extracted information on the performance of each model  
176 assessed by other measures when reported. When more than one outcome per study was  
177 found in the same category, we extracted the information for the primary outcome, as defined  
178 in each article, unless the study reported multiple primary co-outcomes. We relied on what the  
179 individual authors reported as their primary outcome.

#### 180 **Quality assessment**

181 Risk of bias was assessed for each of the included studies with a validated version - previously  
182 used in mental health research- of the Prediction Model Risk of Bias Assessment Tool  
183 (PROBAST v5/05/2019)<sup>9</sup> (Supplement 3, available online).

#### 184 **Strategy for Data Synthesis**

185 Data from the included studies were first summarized in descriptive tables. The top 10% of the  
186 most commonly employed predictor types were shown in a bar chart. We then conducted meta-  
187 regressions to estimate the association, when data were available, between AUC and: (i) the  
188 type of validation (internal vs external); (ii) the age range (children and adolescents vs adults  
189 vs combined/not reported); (iii) the type of model (diagnostic vs prognostic vs treatment-  
190 response model); (iv) the number of predictors; (v) the type of predictors  
191 [clinical/sociodemographic vs any biomarker (neuroimaging, electroencephalography,  
192 magnetoencephalography, proteomic, genetic, cognitive, or a combination of modalities)]<sup>10</sup>;  
193 (vi) the modality of predictors [unimodal, using only one type of predictor (e.g., clinical only) vs  
194 multimodal, using more than one type of predictor (e.g., clinical and biomarker)] and (vii) the  
195 quality of the studies (low risk vs unclear risk vs high risk). We used a random-effects model  
196 to allow for heterogeneity in underlying associations across studies. Number of studies  
197 permitting, we also planned sensitivity analyses to assess the impact of studies being at low  
198 risk of bias and without suboptimal validation. Suboptimal validation was appraised by two  
199 statisticians (R.I. and M.H.I.) with a focus on: 1) double dipping (i.e., performing feature  
200 selection or selection of tuning -or penalty- parameters on data samples from both the training  
201 and the test set)<sup>14</sup>; 2) reporting apparent/non-validated predictive performance instead of the  
202 validated predictive performance; 3) reporting the size and significance of apparent regression  
203 coefficients rather than the cross-validated performance measure, and 4) re-estimating  
204 regression coefficients in the test set, instead of applying the apparently validated model. The  
205 meta-regression was performed with Comprehensive Meta-Analysis Version 3. Statistical  
206 significance was set at  $p < 0.05$ .



207

## 208 **RESULTS**

209 After removing duplicates, from an initial pool of 7764 references, we retained 100 eligible  
210 studies (Figure 1). None of the models reported in the included studies was implemented into  
211 clinical practice. 96 (96.0%) and seven (7.0%) models were internally and externally validated,  
212 respectively. None of the models was implemented into clinical practice. Among the eligible  
213 studies, 88.0% reported on diagnostic prediction models, 5.0% on prognostic models (with  
214 outcomes such as symptom change or development of substance use disorders), and 7.0%  
215 on treatment-response models. The retained studies most frequently used clinical (35.0%),  
216 neuroimaging (31.0%) and cognitive (27.0%), predictors (Figure 2). The total sample size was  
217 323,554 individuals, ranging from 10 to 238,696 individuals per study. The average age was  
218 15.7 years. The source of data encompassed case-control studies (73 studies, 73.0%), cohort  
219 studies (23 studies, 23.0%), and clinical trials (4 studies, 4.0%). AUC was the most commonly  
220 reported measure of model performance (61.0%), followed by accuracy (36.0%). Eight studies  
221 (8.0%) only reported the sensitivity and specificity of the models.

222

### 223 **Predictors in prediction models**

224

225 In the 88 diagnostic prediction models, studies used cognitive (K=5 studies)<sup>15-19</sup>, clinical  
226 (K=13)<sup>20-31287</sup>, neuroimaging (K=19)<sup>32-50</sup>, EEG (K=15)<sup>51-65</sup>, genetic (K=2)<sup>66, 67</sup>, ECG (K=2)<sup>68, 69</sup>,  
227 physical health (K=1)<sup>70</sup>, EEG and cognitive (K=4)<sup>71-74</sup>, sociodemographic and neuroimaging  
228 (K=4)<sup>75-77294</sup>, clinical and cognitive (K=4)<sup>78-81</sup>, sociodemographic and cognitive (K=2)<sup>82, 83</sup>,  
229 cognitive and physical health (K=2)<sup>84, 85</sup>, genetic and neuroimaging (K=2)<sup>86, 87</sup>,  
230 sociodemographic and genetic (K=1)<sup>88</sup>, clinical and sociodemographic (K=1)<sup>89</sup> EEG and EMG  
231 (K=1)<sup>90</sup>, sociodemographic and neuroimaging (K=2)<sup>91, 92</sup>, sociodemographic, clinical and  
232 cognitive (K=3)<sup>93-95</sup>, cognitive, sociodemographic and neuroimaging (K=1)<sup>96</sup>, clinical,

233 sociodemographic and neuroimaging (k=1)<sup>97</sup>, clinical, cognitive and neuroimaging (k=1)<sup>98</sup> and  
234 sociodemographic, clinical, cognitive and physical health (K=2)<sup>99, 100</sup> predictors.

235 In the 5 prognostic prediction models, studies employed sociodemographic and clinical  
236 (K=2)<sup>101, 102</sup>, physical health and clinical (K=1)<sup>103</sup>, neuroimaging and genetic (K=1)<sup>104</sup>, and  
237 clinical and genetic (K=1)<sup>105</sup> predictors.

238 In the 7 treatment-response prediction models, studies relied on neuroimaging (K=1)<sup>106</sup>,  
239 genetic (k=1)<sup>107</sup>, sociodemographic, clinical, cognitive, and physical health (K=1)<sup>108</sup>, genetic,  
240 cognitive and physical health (K=1)<sup>109</sup>, clinical, sociodemographic, service use and physical  
241 health (K=1)<sup>110</sup>, sociodemographic and clinical predictors (K=1)<sup>111</sup>, and sociodemographic,  
242 clinical and physical health (K=1) predictors<sup>112</sup>.

#### 243 **Performance of prediction models**

244 The performance of ADHD prediction models was highly variable, with AUC ranging from 0.50  
245 to 0.99. AUC ranged from 0.50 to 0.96 in diagnostic models, from 0.73 to 0.87 in prognostic  
246 models, and from 0.72 to 0.99 in models for predicting treatment-response. Accuracy ranged  
247 from 0.53 to 1.0 (0.53 to 1.0 for diagnostic models, 0.73 to 0.87 for prognostic models, and  
248 0.72 to 0.88 for treatment-response models) (Tables S5-7, available online). Model calibration  
249 was assessed in 6.0% of the studies.

#### 250 **Meta-regression results**

251 The performance of ADHD prediction models was increased in those models including (K=26),  
252 as compared to those not including, clinical predictors (K=36) ( $\beta=6.540$ ,  $p=0.007$ ). No  
253 significant findings emerged when considering type of validation (internal K=58 vs external  
254 K=4), age range (children and adolescents K=33 vs adults K=11 vs combined/not reported  
255 K=18), type of prediction model (diagnostic K=52 vs prognostic K=3 vs treatment-response  
256 K=7) ( $p>0.05$ ), number of predictors (K=34), other types of predictors comparisons

257 (clinical/service use/sociodemographic K=13 vs biomarkers K=33 vs combination K=17) or  
258 quality of the studies (low risk K=7 vs unclear risk K=11 vs high risk K=44) (all  $p>0.05$ ) (Table  
259 2), according to our meta-regression analyses.

## 260 **Quality of prediction models**

261 Sixty-seven (67.0%) of the included studies were deemed to be at high risk of bias according  
262 to the PROBAST tool. The results from the different domains were heterogeneous: 9 (9.0%)  
263 were at high risk of bias in the participants domain, 11 (11.0%) in the predictors domain, 19  
264 (19.0%) in the outcomes domain, and 61 (61.0%) in the analysis domain. Only 8 (8.0%) of the  
265 included studies (seven diagnostic and one prognostic) were considered to be at overall low  
266 risk of bias; 86 (86.0%) of the studies were deemed at low risk of bias in the participants  
267 domain, 60 (60.0%) in the predictors domain, 57 (57.0%) in the outcomes domain, and 18  
268 (18.0%) in the analysis domain (Table S8, available online; Figure 3 ). In 13 studies (13.0%)  
269 the performance was evaluated in development dataset only, resulting in suboptimal validation  
270 (Table S9, available online).

271

## 272 **DISCUSSION**

273 This is the first systematic review to quantitatively summarize the evidence regarding internally  
274 or externally validated diagnostic, prognostic, or treatment-response prediction models  
275 specifically in the field of ADHD, appraising the quality of the models and assessing possible  
276 factors affecting their performance in terms of AUC. Among the 100 prediction modelling  
277 studies included, 88% reported on diagnostic, 5% on prognostic, and 7% on treatment-  
278 response models. Furthermore, 35% of studies used clinical, 31.0% neuroimaging, and 27.0%  
279 cognitive predictors. Notably, only 7.0% of models were externally validated. The performance  
280 of ADHD prediction models was increased in those models including, compared to those  
281 models not including, clinical predictors. Meta-regressions did not detect any significant

282 changes in the AUC according to other evaluated variables. Also, 67.0% of included studies  
283 were found to be at high risk of bias according to PROBAST quality assessment.

284 Our review shows that the number of prediction models in the field of ADHD is increasing  
285 exponentially over the years, with a wide range of predictors that might potentially support the  
286 diagnosis of ADHD, and, to a lesser extent, the understanding of the clinical progression of the  
287 disorder or the factor influencing the response to interventions.

288 However, the discrimination and accuracy of the models, although good, may not be enough  
289 for implementation into clinical practice. This emerging body of research is limited by not only  
290 a small number of externally validated models, but also, and crucially, by lack of  
291 implementation research in real-world clinical practice. Our findings align with previous  
292 evidence related to other mental health conditions suggesting that external validation of  
293 prediction models is still infrequent in psychiatry/mental health<sup>113</sup>. A similar review exploring  
294 prediction models across any mental health condition found that only 20.1% of all prediction  
295 models were externally validated<sup>11</sup>. Another review found that 30.3% of all models were  
296 externally validated following strict validation criteria (4.6% of the total models)<sup>10</sup>. This is in  
297 contrast with the status of prediction science in other areas of medicine. For instance, several  
298 models have been externally validated between five to seventeen times in the field of chronic  
299 obstructive pulmonary disease<sup>114</sup>. Similar approaches may move the field of ADHD forward,  
300 ensuring generalizability of the model to clinical populations not used to develop the model.

301 Within the internally and externally validated models, there was no significant correlation seen  
302 between the internal and external performance measures. However, the number of models  
303 internally and externally validated (six studies) was low. Our findings may also reflect a  
304 suboptimal quality during the internal validation of the models, potentially leading to optimism  
305 in the reported performance measures and high risk of bias. In fact, 67.0% of the included  
306 studies were found to be at high risk of bias. The “analysis” domain, where 61.0% of the  
307 included studies were found to be at high risk of bias seems particularly problematic. Also,

308 calibration was assessed in 6.0% of the studies only. Future prediction models need to make  
309 sure that: 1) the sample size is appropriate and there is an appropriate number of participants  
310 developing the outcome (which may vary depending on the population and outcome of  
311 interest); 2) the number of predictors is appropriate, 3) the missing data is handled  
312 appropriately (of note, >80% studies did not report how they handled missing data, 7.0%  
313 deleted missing data and only 4.0% carried out multiple imputation techniques, being low  
314 adherence to ADHD treatment frequent); 4) complexities in the data (e.g. competing risks,  
315 sampling of controls) are accounted for appropriately, and 5) model overfitting and optimism  
316 in model performance are accounted for, among other key criteria to develop and validate  
317 prediction models<sup>9</sup>. We note that risk of bias was heterogeneous across the different  
318 PROBAST domains: only 9.0% of models were at high risk of bias in the participants domain  
319 and only 11.0% were at high risk of bias in the predictors domain. Given the strictness of  
320 PROBAST scoring thresholds, this highlights some strengths among published ADHD  
321 prediction models in the selection of participants and predictors.

322 In terms of the aim of the models, most of them were intended to support the prediction of  
323 ADHD diagnosis (88/100), reflecting an increasing interest in developing diagnostic prediction  
324 models in the ADHD field, alongside other mental health conditions such as depression<sup>115</sup>, first  
325 episode psychosis<sup>116</sup>, or bipolar disorder<sup>117</sup>, following a similar route, likely due to the  
326 perception of the suboptimal nature of a “subjective” diagnosis. Notably, unlike other mental  
327 health conditions, where performance in diagnostic models has been found to be superior to  
328 that in prognostic and treatment-response models<sup>10</sup>, we did not find this to be the case in the  
329 field of ADHD. The limited number of available treatment-response models points to a critical  
330 need for carefully designed experimentally controlled trials (or high quality observational  
331 studies) to identify biomarkers that index inter-individual variability and predict treatment  
332 response<sup>118</sup>. While studies on treatment-response models are complex to perform, mostly due  
333 to the intervention-related components (particularly randomized clinical trials), as well as to

334 ethical issues<sup>10</sup>, observational studies relying on electronic health-care records on the long-  
335 term effectiveness and safety of the interventions could provide a meaningful alternative<sup>119</sup>.

336 In terms of predictor types, a significant proportion of the reviewed prediction models included  
337 clinical predictors, followed closely by neuroimaging predictors and cognitive predictors. The  
338 performance of ADHD prediction models was higher in those models including clinical  
339 predictors, compared to those models not including clinical predictors. Thus, the use of clinical  
340 predictors, which may be combined with other type of predictors, may improve the performance  
341 of the models and their inclusion should be considered in prediction models<sup>81</sup>. However, it is  
342 important to note that further research is needed to validate these results across different  
343 populations, and including additional predictors<sup>99</sup>. While clinical predictors seem to be clearly  
344 predominant in other fields<sup>10</sup>, in the ADHD field different biomarkers have commonly been used  
345 to aid the detection and correct characterization of ADHD. However, there is currently no  
346 biomarker in any neurodevelopmental condition, including ADHD, for which there is evidence  
347 from two or more studies from independent research groups, with results going into the same  
348 direction and of specificity and sensitivity of at least 80%<sup>3</sup>. This makes it difficult to recommend  
349 the use of any specific individual predictor in isolation, for future prediction models. Notably,  
350 we also found no evidence that multimodal prediction models achieved higher accuracy than  
351 unimodal models, arguing against the development of complex models with a wide variety of  
352 biomarkers and predictors (which would also be more difficult to apply and implement). In other  
353 words, we found no evidence that more complex prediction models encompassing biomarkers  
354 or a large number of predictors (which may be more prone to overfitting issues) outperformed  
355 less complex models. However, from a quality perspective, five of the six studies assessed at  
356 low risk of bias were multimodal, so caution is recommended in the interpretation of this finding.

357 Future studies should consider net benefit approaches for the evaluation of prediction models  
358 for ADHD, which were not used in any of the studies in this review. Net benefit approaches put  
359 the benefits and harms of using a prediction model on the same scale, to allow assessment of

360 the relative value associated with using prediction models to guide clinical decision making,  
361 over other patient management strategies<sup>120</sup>, an approach which is currently lacking in the  
362 ADHD prediction literature. 74% of the studies were case-control studies which tried to  
363 differentiate individuals with ADHD and healthy controls. Future studies should also try to  
364 differentiate ADHD from other relevant syndromes such as the cognitive disengagement  
365 syndrome (CDS) -or sluggish cognitive tempo-. CDS is an emerging condition -as opposed to  
366 a transdiagnostic phenomenon- in the field of child, adolescent and adult psychiatry<sup>1, 2</sup>. The  
367 presence of CDS is particularly important as misdiagnosis of this condition may result in a poor  
368 response to first-line treatment with methylphenidate and unwanted side effects<sup>3, 4</sup>.  
369 Furthermore, among children crossing into adolescence with ADHD, CDS can result in poor  
370 physical activity and behavior<sup>2</sup>.

371 Our study should be considered in the light of its limitations. Our study has several limitations  
372 that must be taken into consideration, mainly related to issues in the available studies rather  
373 than in our methods. The main limitation rests in the heterogeneity of the characteristics of  
374 prediction models developed in the included studies. The predictors used to develop the  
375 models varied considerably across studies. Therefore, in line with previous studies<sup>10</sup>, we did  
376 not attempt to meta-analyse the categories of prediction models; rather, we presented only  
377 meta-regression analyses, stratifying the models for methodological features. We also could  
378 not conduct meta-regressions on the studies at low risk of bias and without suboptimal  
379 methodological strategies in regard to validation. The sample size and the quality of the studies  
380 was highly heterogeneous, with high risk of bias observed in 67.0% of included studies  
381 according to the PROBAST criteria, including 61.0% in the analysis domain. Final scores of  
382 the PROBAST should be taken with caution as the thresholds are stringent and an outcome is  
383 considered to be at high risk of bias when one or more of the questions is answered as not  
384 appropriate. We did not analyse the differences among validation measures, some of them  
385 being prone to data leakage and inflated accuracy or overfitting. We might have missed

386 relevant studies, particularly if not published. Finally, we could not provide data about  
387 calibration as this was rarely reported.

388 In conclusion, several validated prediction models have been proposed to support the  
389 diagnosis of ADHD. However, efforts to predict prognostic outcomes or treatment response to  
390 ADHD have been limited. Advances in the field are limited by lack of implementation research  
391 in real-world clinical practice. A new generation of research should address these gaps by  
392 conducting high quality, replicable and externally validated models. Once an evidence-based  
393 model is available, efforts to disseminate it and implement it into clinical practice are  
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424 GSP and SC conceived the study. GSP conducted the analyses and drafted the first version  
425 of the manuscript. RI provided statistical support. SC supervised the project and study. RI,  
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427 SVF and HC revised the manuscript and provided a substantial conceptual contribution. All  
428 authors proofread and approved the final draft of the manuscript.

429 **Table 1. Definitions of key terms in prediction science.**

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<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Accuracy	The degree of closeness of the measured value
Area under the curve (AUC)	The area enclosed by the curve of a mathematical function and a reference axis
Calibration	The degree of adjustment of a measurement to account for the sources of variation
Classification	The degree of assignment of an outcome to the correct category
Discrimination	The ability of the model to separate individuals who develop events from those who do not
External validation	Process of evaluating the extent to which the predictions can be generalized to the data from other settings
Internal validation	Process of evaluating the extent to which the predictions fit the derivation data after controlling for overfitting and optimism
Optimism	Increase in the assigned performance values due to methodological bias
Overfitting	A modeling error consisting on a measure being too closely aligned to a previous set of data points
Performance	The degree of execution of a model in regards to discrimination and calibration aspects
Prediction modelling studies	Studies that use statistical procedures to predict the appearance of a condition or outcome.

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**Table 2. Meta-regressions exploring the possible moderating factors impacting the area under the curve (AUC).**

Moderating factors	Number of studies	Meta-regression Coefficient	SE	Z value	P	95%CI
(i) Type of validation						
External vs Internal validation	62 (58;4)	2.319	-3.79	0.75	0.454	-3.790; 8.474
(ii) Age range						
Children&adolescents vs adults	44 (33;11)	-1.612	2.976	-0.54	0.588	-7.444; 4.221
Children&adolescents vs combined/not reported	51 (33;18)	0.482	2.696	0.18	0.858	-4.802; 5.766
Adults vs combined/not reported	29 (11;18)	2.093	3.344	0.63	0.531	-4.460; 8.647
(iii) Type of model						
Diagnostic vs prognostic	55 (52;3)	-2.073	5.786	-0.36	0.720	-13.413; 9.268
Diagnostic vs treatment-response	59 (52;7)	1.045	3.538	0.30	0.7677	-5.889; 7.979
Prognostic vs treatment-response	10 (3;7)	3.118	6.514	0.48	0.632	-9.649; 15.885
(iv) Number of predictors						
Number of predictors	34	-0.0047	0.003	-1.39	0.166	-0.011; 0.002
(v) Type of predictors						
Clinical or service use or sociodemographic vs biomarkers	46 (13; 33)	-1.249	4.337	-0.29	0.773	-9.750; 7.252
Clinical or service use or sociodemographic vs combination	30 (13;17)	-2.749	2.935	-0.94	0.349	-8.502; 3.003
Biomarkers vs combination	50 (33;17)	-0.404	3.786	-0.11	0.915	-7.825; 7.017
Including clinical vs not including clinical	62 (26;36)	-6.540	2.410	-2.72	<b>0.007</b>	-11.264; -1.824
(vi) Modality of predictors						
Unimodal vs Multimodal	62 (36;26)	-3.496	1.873	-1.87	0.062	-7.167; 0.174
(vii) Quality assessment						
Low risk vs unclear risk	18 (7;11)	3.629	5.058	0.72	0.473	-6.284; 13.542
Low risk vs high risk	51 (7; 44)	5.549	3.910	1.42	0.156	-6.284; 13.542
Unclear risk vs high risk	55 (11; 44)	1.920	3.999	0.48	0.631	-5.918; 9.759

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439 **Figure 1. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) flowchart outlining study selection**  
440 **process.**

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442 **Figure 2. Most frequently reported predictors across prediction model types.**

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444 **Figure 3. Risk of bias of the retrieved studies, as assessed by the PROBAST tool.**

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926 **Figure 1. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses**  
927 **(PRISMA) flowchart outlining study selection process.**  
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930 **Figure 2. Most frequently reported predictors across prediction model types.**  
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933 **Figure 3. Risk of bias of the retrieved studies, as assessed by the PROBAST tool.**  
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