This article looks at Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD). As there is an increasing tendency for drugs to be prescribed to our children and lately adults for the treatment of this condition, it is timely to provide some information from an upper cervical chiropractic perspective.

I recently watched a tv news show in which a doctor was being interviewed about Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD). Apart from the increasing numbers of children being diagnosed with these disorders, the doctor claimed that around 4% of the US adult population was also suffering from the disorder. Ah! I thought here we go—yet another market opportunity opens up for pharmaceutical companies. It made me think about current drug advertising. Some of the current drug advertisements make you feel like you are missing out on something and that you should run straight to your doctor to get a prescription! Isn’t it amazing to think that a product that is supposed to help sufferers of diseases is peddled as if it was the latest consumer ‘got-to-have’? Such are the dynamics of a global multi-billion-dollar drug industry.
ADHD: A Patient’s Perspective

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Mercola and Droege reported in 2004 that “well over 1 million American children are on drugs for ADHD” and “that drugs for attention disorders bring in $2.2 billion a year” despite evidence that “the effect of treatment beyond four weeks has not been demonstrated. In other words, no one knows what the long-term effects will be.” Mercola and Droege further state that “Although it is estimated that more than 8 million adults in the United States have ADHD, the disorder is typically thought of as something that is outgrown during adolescence. Why, then, would adults need these drugs? Perhaps it has something to do with one pharmaceutical executive’s statement in a Reuters interview, ‘The adult market is three times the size of the children’s market. The market is ripe and is moving in the right direction.’”

A newspaper article recently reported the case of a woman who was incorrectly diagnosed with bipolar disorder and ADHD and subsequently prescribed medications. According to the article, she “suffered a drug induced psychosis from the range of medications which included Prozac and dexamphetamine.” Additionally, she was told that her 7-year-old son had ADHD, which turned out to be yet another misdiagnosis. The article goes on to say that “doctors are increasingly prescribing