

## Ranking Lived Barriers to ADHD Diagnosis in Adult Women

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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

This paragraph effectively frames the gender bias issue but could benefit from including a short historical timeline or referencing key DSM revisions to contextualize the persistence of male-centric diagnostic criteria.

This paragraph introduces hormonal influences but lacks integration with the overarching gender-bias framework. Consider explicitly linking how hormonal variability interacts with diagnostic invisibility (e.g., symptom fluctuation obscuring assessment validity).

This section could be improved by distinguishing between true comorbidity and diagnostic overshadowing (i.e., when ADHD symptoms are misinterpreted as depression or anxiety). This distinction is crucial for theoretical precision.

The text relies heavily on general statements (“studies from diverse regions highlight...”). Adding at least one specific country example (e.g., Lebanon or Nigeria, already cited later) would provide geographic concreteness.

The process of questionnaire validation is unclear. Were pilot tests or expert panels used to assess content validity or reliability (Cronbach’s alpha)? This information is essential for methodological credibility.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.



### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The authors might clarify what is meant by “heterogeneous condition”—does this refer to subtypes (inattentive, hyperactive, combined) or comorbid presentations? Defining this term early would enhance conceptual clarity.

The claim that “femininity is associated with composure, emotional regulation, and relational sensitivity” would benefit from citation of a sociocultural or feminist psychology source to substantiate the cultural construction argument.

This paragraph could better connect the “double burden” concept to intersectionality theory—how overlapping gender, class, and role expectations magnify diagnostic challenges.

The summary is strong but would benefit from a clearer problem statement leading into the study aim—for instance, emphasizing the lack of quantitative ranking studies prior to this one.

It would strengthen methodological rigor to report how many databases were searched, the keywords used, and whether a PRISMA flow diagram was followed for transparency.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.