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BODY IMAGE IN INFERTILE WOMEN

Abstract

Background: The aim of this study was to describe the body image in infertile women.

Subjects and Method: 50 infertile women were administered the Multidimensional Body Self Relations Questionnaire and the Drawing Test of the Body Image. Controls were enrolled from among women who had at least one child. They were matched for age, education and residence.

Results: The infertile women displayed higher Illness Orientation in the MBSRQ than controls. They were also less satisfied with their breasts and more satisfied with their hair than the reference population. Results of Drawing Test of the Body Image revealed that infertile women have difficulties in these areas of their body, which were linked to psychological and sexual identity.

Conclusion: Higher satisfaction with hair and lower satisfaction with breasts in infertile women can be explained by disruptions of cohesive body self and by the activation of some compensatory mechanisms. High Illness Orientation could be connected to difficulties in the integration of body self.

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Curriculum vitae

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I was born on December 10th, 1958 in Warsaw, Poland. I was admitted to the Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw in 1977.

I spent the academic year 1978/79 as a “visiting student” at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada.

I received Masters’ Degree with a “very good” grade and with high honours from the Warsaw University in 1983.

I worked in the Clinic for Children with Hearing Impairment at the Institute for Mother and Child in Warsaw between 1983 - 1986.

Between 1986 – 1991 I studied in Heidelberg, Germany at the Institute for Psy-

choanalytic Psychotherapy of Children and Adolescents, where I completed the training in analytic psychotherapy of children and adolescents. I finished the IPA (International Psychoanalytical Association) training in Warsaw. I was approved both as a child psychoanalyst and as a training psychoanalyst of the Polish Psychoanalytical Society.

I have been working at the Faculty of Psychology, Warsaw University since 1991. I worked at the Centre for Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy, between 1991 - 1996.

I received my PhD degree in psychology in 1997. I have been an associate professor in the Department of Clinical Child Psychology at the Faculty of Psychology, Warsaw University since 1997. In 2005 I did the "habilitation" and in 2007 I received the position of the Professor of University of Warsaw.

I received a number of scholarships.

I spent two weeks in 1992 at the Centre of the Infantile Psychiatry of the University of Genève. I spent six weeks at the Psychosomatic Clinic of the Clementine Kinderhospital in Frankfurt in 1997. I participated in the Study Week at the Anna Freud Centre in London in 1998. I was a guest lecturer at the Faculty of Psychology University of Vienna (Erasmus Exchange Program) in 2000, where I conducted a course concerning child psychotherapy. I was in the Psychiatric Clinic for Children of the University in Tübingen (Germany) in 2001 and I spent two weeks in 2002 at the Faculty of Psychology and Education University of Mainz (Germany).

I wrote four books (one as a co-author) and many articles addressing problems of child development, child psychotherapy, the mechanisms of psychosomatic disorders and the problems of body image.

I speak German, English, French and Russian (passive).

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