

Marta Wąs

THE IMAGE OF THE RELATIONSHIP IN THE FAMILY IN CHILDREN WITH DIABETES

Abstract

Aim: The aim of the study was the detailed description of the way how children with diabetes function in terms of their image of the relationships in the family. **Subjects and methods:** The research was conducted in a sample of 62 children aged 8 - 12. Thirty one children with type 1 diabetes and thirty one healthy children participated in the study. The children were asked to fill in the projective test "Family of animals", developed for the assessment of the internal picture of the family. The parents filled in a short questionnaire. **Results:** The results concerning the perceived relationships in the family showed interesting connections. They indicate, for example, the different way of experiencing aggressive emotions by sick and healthy children. The authors stress the necessity of including specific forms of psychological help in the treatment of children with diabetes.

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Curriculum vitae

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Born : 25. 03. 1983 r.
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Education

- 11. 2008 - 2012 Ph.D Studies, Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw; Clinical Psychology of Children and Family.
- 2004 – 2009 Faculty of Education, University of Warsaw; M.A. in Social and Cultural Animation
- 2002 – 2007 Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw; M.A. in Clinical Child Psychology; Psychotherapy

Scientific Experience:

18. 09. 2007 The body image and perceived relations in a family among diabetic children. –master`s thesis in Clinical Child Psychology at University of Warsaw

10. 2006 – 06.2007 Member of Erasmus International Exchange Student Network – section of University of Warsaw. Participant of Mentor Programme and coordinator of Sport Section at ESN UW.

2005 – 2007 Cooperation in adjustment and development process of polish version of The Multidimensional Body-Self Relations Questionnaire (MBSRQ) designed by Thomas Cash.

2005 – 2007 Cooperation with Ph.D. Katarzyna Schier in designing Drawing Test of Body Image.

Conferences:

8 – 10. 05. 2009 Speaker during the III National Scientific Conference of Clinical Child Psychology with “Diagnostic methods at clinical psychology of children”, organized by Clinical Child Psychology Section of Polish Psychological Association.

5 – 7. 11. 2008 Poster presentation during the XII National Conference „Tanatos” 2008. The problems of contemporary tanatology. Medicine – anthropology of culture – humanities, organized by Wroclaw Scientific Society;

poster K. Schier, M. Topór – Pamuła, M. Wąs „The deceased femininity” – self image in women with infertility.

24 – 27. 09. 2008 Participation in XXXIII Scientific Convention of Polish Psychological Association: “To live with dignity” in Poznan.

Poster M. Wąs, K. Schier, The image of relationships with sibilings in children with diabetes.

16 – 17. 05. 2008 Participation in 18 Scientific Conference „Ku lepszemu rozumieniu swoich psychicznych i somatycznych wartości”, organized by Psychosomatic Section of Polish Medical Association

Poster M. Wąs, K. Schier Body image in girls and boys with diabetes.

19. 10. 2007 Participation in Scientific Conference organized by Clinical Child Psychology Section of Polish Psychological Association: „Dziecko w świecie emocji” in Jachranka/ Warsaw:

Poster M. Wąs, K. Schier The body image and perceived relations in a family among diabetic children.

Publications:

Wąs, M. Schier, K. (2008) Obraz relacji w rodzinie u dzieci chorujących na cukrzycę (The image of the relationships in the family in children with diabetes) . W: Zalewska, M. (red.). Zaburzenia rozwoju dziecka z perspektywy relacji. Zeszyty Sekcji Psychologii Klinicznej Dziecka Polskiego

Towarzystwa Psychologicznego, 06, 81 – 94.

Schier, K., Topór – Pumela, M., Wąs, M. (2008). „Uśmiercona kobiecość” – obraz siebie kobiet dotkniętych niepłodnością. („The deceased femininity” – self image in women with infertility). W: (edit. J. Kolbuszowski), *Problemy współczesnej tantalogii*, XII, 85 – 91.

Wąs, M., Schier, K. (2008). Obraz ciała u dzieci chorych na cukrzycę (Body image in children with diabetes). *Pediatrics polska*, 83, 3, 252 – 259.

Wąs, M., Schier, K. (2007). Obraz ciała u dzieci – perspektywa rozwojowa. (Children’s body image – a developmental perspective). *Nowiny Psychologiczne*, 1, 5 – 20.

Professional Experience

09. 2008 – Psychotherapeutic trainee on XIX Daily Psychiatric – Rehabilitation Ward for Children, Sobieskiego 93 Str. in Warsaw; associate to children’s group therapy, family’s therapy, entrance consultations and interventions.

2007 / 2008 Trainee in social- therapeutic clubroom: The Youth Club Bemowo – „LOL” in Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Dzieci Ulicy „Przywrócić dzieciństwo” care.

02. 2006 – 06. 2006 Trainee in Theater Group for Children and Youth in „Ochota” Theater care.

02. 2006 – 06. 2006 Trainee in Zespół Szkół Specjalnych Nr 78 im. Ewy Szelburg – Zarembiny at „Pomnik – Centrum Zdrowia Dziecka” Institut.

Other activities

03. 2008 – 06. 2008 Volunteer on XIX Daily Psychiatric – Rehabilitation Ward for Children, Sobieskiego 93 Str. in Warsaw; in „ Dziecko – Rodzina – Świat” Association care.

02. 2008 – Member of Polish Psychological Association

10. 2007 – 02. 2008 Theater instructor in Children Clubroom, Gibalskiego Str. 10, Warsaw.

11.2006 – 11.2007 Volunteer of Social Assistance Center of Bemowo District in Warsaw.

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Objectives of study: To determine the prevalence, risk factors for psychiatric comorbidity among children and adolescents with diabetes mellitus type 1.

Materials and Methods: 51 Children and adolescents (aged 9-18 years) with duration of diabetes longer than 1 year were enrolled to the study. Interviewers conducted semi-structured diagnostic interviews with patients and their legal guardians during routine metabolic control hospitalization. Participants were evaluated also by self-report measures and psychiatric scales.

Results: There were 30 males and 21 females in the group. Mean age at the time of evaluation was 13,8±2,6 years. Median duration of diabetes was 4,0 (Interquartile Range 2,0-4,0) years. Mean HbA1c level was 8,0±1,5%. 22% participating patients met DSM-IV criteria for at least one psychiatric disorder of any kind. Only 2 of them had been diagnosed with psychiatric morbidity before participating in the study. Most commonly observed were: mood (45%), anxiety (27%) or disruptive behavior disorders (27%) with mean HbA1c level for each diagnosis respectively 10,0±0,9; 9,2±0,4; 10,6±0,8. The mean HbA1c level of patients without psychiatric morbidity equaled 7,6±1,3. Mood disorders ($p<0,01$) and disruptive behaviors ($p<0,001$) were associated with higher level of HbA1c. Higher HbA1c level (Odds Ratio-OR 5.3; 95%CI 1,7-16,5) and duration of diabetes longer than 4 years (OR 8.5; 95%CI 0,77-94,3) were associated with higher odds of psychiatric morbidity. There were also significant correlations between HbA1c level and depressive ($r=0,52$; $p<0,01$) and anxiety symptoms ($r=0,35$; $p<0,05$) according to The Hamilton Anxiety Scale (HAMA) and The Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HDRS).

Conclusions: Presence and intensity of psychiatric disorders significantly worsens metabolic control. Youths with elevated HbA1c level and longer duration of disease are good candidates for routine psychiatric screening.

Keywords: type 1 diabetes, psychiatric morbidity, children and adolescents, risk factors