

M.Wąs, K.Schier

W jaki sposób dzieci z astmą oskrzelową i cukrzycą doświadczają własnego ciała?

How the children with bronchial asthma and diabetes experience their body?

Marta Wąs, Katarzyna Schier
Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw

Aim of the study

Both asthma and diabetes could be seen as psychosomatic disorders. They are both linked to the child's concentration on his or hers body, and to the pain. They both could mean the danger for life, since in their etiology there exist the mechanisms of auto aggression. The aim of the study was to analyze the specificity of the experiencing of the body in children with asthma and diabetes.

Subjects and method

In the study participated 167 children in the age of 8-12 years. In the part of the study concerning diabetes 31 children with diabetes type1 and 31 healthy children took part. In the part of the study concerning asthma, participated 105 children: 29 children with asthma and 76 healthy children. The participants filled in the semi projective test of the body image – KBMT-K.

Results

The analysis of the results shows that there are differences between chronically ill boys and girls concerning satisfaction with the whole body and its parts. The sex of the child played the role of the mediator.

Discussion

The way of experiencing one's body in children with diabetes and bronchial asthma has similar characteristic - the differences between the sexes could indicate the different ways of coping by boys and girls. It seems that girls have better connections to the emotions concerning their body. The boys, on the other hand, more often use the mechanism of denial, dealing in this way with the suffering linked to the disease.