

ABSTRACTS

The Following abstracts represent other papers read in the meeting. They are only published in abstract form as they only represent work in progress or are to be published in full elsewhere.

THE PARADOXES OF DEPRESSION IN ADOLESCENCE

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Background: Depression is structurally part of adolescence. It is linked, on the one hand, to the mourning of childhood and the need for parting from those figures who provided love and security in the past and, on the other hand, to the requests addressed to responsible young individuals as they are now invited to become citizens respecting rules and laws.

Subjects and methods: Qualitative research will explain some paradoxes related to depression in adolescence.

Results: Depression in adolescence relates to educational principles when a child is asked to choose and decide for himself rather than being guided by the structured power of well-meaning adults. Access to maturity implies constraints and efforts. In addition, culture influences society's values at a public as well as a private level through the media and the economic system. Culture has created a new status for juvenile depression. Depression scales and massive antidepressant medication distort understanding of juvenile depression.

Conclusions: A clinical-built of depression concerning an adolescent requires a case to case interpretation so as to adapt the therapeutic answer to each individual situation. Same symptoms, even very dangerous ones, can be caused by many different etiologies.

Key words: depression – adolescence – paradoxe - social representation

SCHOOL REFUSAL IN ADOLESCENTS: INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILIAL CHARACTERISTICS

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Background: School refusal or school phobia is a common anxiety disorder which seems to increase in the adolescent population in our western countries. Few studies have clearly evaluated these adolescents and few elements are proposed to treat them.

Subjects and methods: First, we have made a complete literature review on school refusal or school phobia. Next, we prospectively recruited 20 adolescents with school refusal. We have investigated individual characteristics like anxiety, depression, self esteem and conduct symptoms. In addition, we have evaluated family functioning and past history of psychiatric disorders in parents.

Results: School refusal is one of the most common serious anxious disorder in adolescence with a usual pejorative evolution. Few articles have been published on this topic with formal evaluation of the patients and their families. We will discuss our results in comparison with the literature and we will propose specific therapeutic actions.

Conclusions: More prospective researches need to be conducted to evaluate the adolescent population with symptoms of school refusal particularly in connection with anxiety or depressive disorders and treatment proposals. In addition, particular family organisation and familial anxiety disorders are usually found.

Key Words: school refusal - school phobia - adolescence