Posters 225s

### P142 Psychopathology and psychotherapies

# THERAPY SENSITIVITY IN CLINICO-IMMUNOLOGICAL RESEARCH

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Psychopathological and immunological investigation of 95 patients suffering from acute episodes of schizophrenia was carried out. For the purposes of sample homogeneity the initial course of treatment included haloperidol and amitriptylin in mean therapeutic doses. The result of the clinico-immunological investigation of intensive psychopharmacotherapy process showed certain changes in the immunological indices which may be considered an illustration of the influence of the immune processes on different types of therapy reactions. The dynamic changes of the immunological indices correlated with the rapid and effective reduction of psychopathological disorders in intensive therapy. In cases of protracted episodes the immunological indices altered to a lesser degree in comparison with the initial parameters. These indices may be considered predictors of therapy efficiency.

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### PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF PATIENTS WITH PARAPHILIA

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Objective: to study conscious representation of objects of sexual attraction, a feature of the affective sphere of persons with paraphilipa. 75 men convicted of sexual crimes were divided into two groups, (i) 34 men with paraphilia (pedophilia, ephebophilia, sexual sadism); (ii) 41 men with absence of paraphilia.

Method: Updated projective methods were used.

Results: Research showed that a factor distinguishing the group with paraphilia from the second group is an ambivalence of emotional attitudes to "women". Investigation of those with pedophilic and ephebophilic orientation (16) revealed undifferentiated representation in consciousness featuring the age of the object of sexual attraction. Patients with sadistic paraphilia (18), showed a prevalence for associative images of a directive character as well as giving aggressive answers of an uncompleted symbolic nature. The results show a prevalence of "readiness to attack" and "expectations of external threat" in the sphere of emotional experience.

Conclusions: Research indicates the adequacy and efficiency of the application of current projective methods for the development of psychological criteria for the diagnosis of patients with paraphilia and proposes further perspectives for an investigation of psychological features determining the choice of object and the way of satisfying morbid attraction.

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# ALEXITHYMIA AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY: AN 18 MONTH FOLLOW-UP

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Objective: to evaluate psychopathology, alexithymia and their relationship in a group of patients with Multiple Sclerosis in order to improve the therapeutic approach and adapt it to the different forms of pathology.

Method: 37 MS patients (10 males and 27 females) participated in the study with a mean age of 38.9 (range 21-55). Alexithymia was measured using the 20 item Toronto Alexthymia Scale (TAS-20). Depression was evaluated with the Beck Depression Inventory (BECK), anxiety with the Bonis Questionnaire of anxiety trait-state (BATE), psychopathology with the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-28) and personality with the Mini-Mult. Results: The two evaluations at 18 month intervals do not show significant correlations between psychopathology and Alexithymia. Moreover there is no significant interaction between psychopathology and Alexithymia over time. The group studied showed scores marginally significant for Alexithymia but the psychopathological evaluation is significant with a worsening over time. Conclusion: Care for patients suffering from MS needs punctual and regular evaluation in order to detect as soon as possible pathological signs requiring treatment (medical or psychotherapeutic)

#### P145 Psychopathology and psychotherapies

# THE EFFECTS OF HEAVY METALS AND MENTAL DISORDERS IN CHILDREN

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Objective: to find out the psychopathology of children living in a region with a high concentration of heavy metals in the environment. Method: A clinico-psychopathological examination was made in 75 children (36 boys, 39 girls) aged 5 and 6 in two nursery schools in Saratov City, Russia, an area of heavy industry (machine building, chemistry, lead batteries).

Results: In accordance with IAEA, ICP-AES and AAS recommendations, the concentations of Pb, Cd and their antagonists Zn and Ca, were determined in hair and whole blood. For the evaluation we moved from the 'biologically allowable' (BAL) to 'critical' (CL) levels of metals in hair and whole blood. The findings show the presence of mental disturbances mainly of an organic genesis in 57% of the children. 25% exceeded the PB BAL (9 ppm) and 52% the Cd BAL (1ppm). These findings were associated with low levels of Zn (97%) and Ca (26%) in the hair. The results of clinical examination correleated with the increased levels of Pb and Cd and with decreased levels of Zn and Ca in the hair and Pb in whole blood. For the treatment of these imbalances, drugs containing humic acid, macro- and trace-elements, amino acids ("Humet-R", Hungary, "Biomos", Russia) were used.