

APOCALYPTIC DELUSIONS

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This study attempts to present the genesis of the world end (Apocalyptic) delusions. Religious idea of the world end given in the Sacred Scripture is being found in the content of delusions but is added with inclusion of modern cultural signs, personal values and beliefs and description of apocalypse, produced in delusional thinking of nowadays patients suffering from schizophrenia and related disorders.

We have studied the content of delusions in patients with schizophrenia looking for apocalyptic themes using Fragebogen für psychotische Symptome (FPS) - a semi-structured questionnaire developed by Cultural Psychiatry International research group in Vienna, which was translated into the language of the participating patient, double translation was performed. Examination was conducted on 295 patients (the mean age - 42.4 [SD 9.7] years; women - 51.5%), suffering from schizophrenia at Vilnius Mental Health Center in Lithuania, among whom 69.8% reported apocalyptic delusional themes (lifetime-prevalence), both religious and culture-sensitive. Investigation of the influence of personal importance of their religious beliefs on the content of (Apocalyptic) delusions was made.

We divided the content into three groups: religious content, modern and global.