Su-S-071

Social skills training groups for adolescents with Asperger syndrome: A six-years’ review of an approach focused on cognitions and emotions
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Context.– The special needs of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder lead to develop interventions with goals in the field of social interactions (French Health Authority).

Objective.– To describe and analyze, on the basis of a six-years’ practice, the functioning and results of a specific approach emphasizing on cognitions and emotions.

Method.–
– Inclusion protocol and objectives;
– organization and conduct of groups;
– sessions content:
  ◦ relationship to peers: positive interaction and collaboration,
  ◦ emotions: decoding, imitation and reciprocity,
  ◦ cognition: cognitive flexibility, simulation, imagination, humor and theory of mind,
  ◦ appropriate social behavior;
– evaluation by standardized tools.

Results.– During this period, 32 adolescents aged between 11 and 17 years old were included and 8 different groups were formed. The assessment tools used indicate an overall improvement in results; these are compared to international literature’s data.

Discussion.– The areas for improvement of the methodology and new therapeutic perspectives are presented.

Conclusion.– The results of our approach allow to consider practical recommendations for the use of clinicians.

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Su-S-072

Representation of Asperger syndrome in contemporary movies and TV series
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Background.– Movies and TV series featuring a character with Asperger Syndrome have been more and more broadcasted for over ten years.

Objectives.– The aims were to identify the major functions of these characters and to try to explain their recent increase in such fictions.

Methods.– A group of clinicians has systematically examined movies and TV series produced between 2000 and 2011 including a character with Asperger syndrome. These selected fictions were analyzed using a method adapted from the Focus Group.

Results.– Over 20 productions have been recorded. Four main reactions generated by these characters are mentioned: fascination, empathy, laughter induced by comic situation and reflection.

Discussion.– Four hypotheses are proposed to explain the recent appearance of these fictional characters: information and awareness, increase of heroes coming from the scientific world and the “Geek community”, metaphorical reading of a future hyper systematized society and finally the personal impact.

Conclusion.– The dissemination of such fictional characters in popular works make Asperger Syndrome a cultural component of our modern society, whatever its fate in future classifications.

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Su-S-073

Case formulation in a community mental health program for children and adolescents
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We present a model of formulation used by child and adolescent mental health professionals in Response, Early Intervention and Assessment in Community Mental Health (REACH), a community mental health team for children and adolescents in Singapore. This biopsychosocial-developmental model identifies the multiple factors of a problem and helps to plan a comprehensive approach. An illustrative case formulation will be presented.

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Su-S-073a

Introduction
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This session aims to discuss the self pathologies seen in adolescence with two case presentations. One is a paper on a family therapy with a teenager who was diagnosed as potentially suffering from ADHD but was in the end caught up in a severe narcissistic struggle regarding her self esteem in a family which was ruled by a lack of empathy. The other is a case of disturbance in the self development which presents as a severe case of identity confusion in adolescence.

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Su-S-073b

In what way a self psychological understanding of development facilitates the treatment of a profoundly disturbed adolescent girl within the setting of a family therapy
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Borderline personality disorders frequently present with intense symptoms and the patient’s environment may react with equally intense responses. Contemporary psychiatry views psychological development as influenced by the individual’s experiences within his/her social environment. The child centered family therapy concept addressed this by presenting a mode of treatment which fosters the adolescent’s development by improving her social environment’s capacities to respond to her needs more adequately; this includes the direct involvement of the parents in an ongoing treatment which is directed at solving the parents’ psychological difficulties in parenting within the overall goal of providing the needed milieu for the adolescent’s further psychological development and well-being.

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Su-S-073c

Identity confusion is discussed as a form of self pathology
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This is a case of a young girl whose self development was disturbed and have always been looking for idealizing self-objects. When she becomes an adolescent after a disappointing relation with one of these subjects she decides to become a nun and enters a monastery, though the family has a Islamic background. After a long term, self-psychology oriented psychotherapy she could get an integrated self, resolved the identity confusion and continued with her university education.