

Psychological Medicine

MONOGRAPH SUPPLEMENT 14

Eating disorders in a general
practice population.
Prevalence, characteristics and
follow-up at 12 to 18 months
by Michael B. King

Cambridge University Press

Eating disorders in a general practice population

Despite a growing literature concerning the psychopathology and treatment of eating disorders we know little of their presentation and natural history in the community. The epidemiology of anorexia and bulimia nervosa, as for other psychiatric syndromes, has often been based on clinical descriptions derived from hospital populations. More appropriate, community based concepts must be developed to study these conditions in the community where partial forms appear to be more common than the full syndromes. It is likely that general practitioners will see the majority of patients with eating problems, whether they recognize them or not, and thus primary medical care constitutes a useful base for such an enquiry.

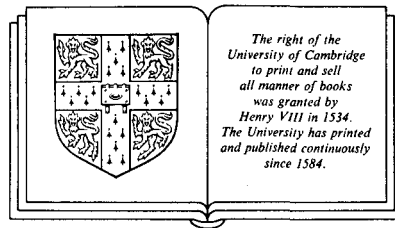
This monograph reports on a two stage screening and interview study of eating disorders among people attending their general practitioner. The clinical profile of the diagnostic types found is described together with associated psychological factors. Finally, outcome of subjects with abnormal eating attitudes at between 12 and 18 months is reported.

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