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Genetic consultation in psychiatry: Family histories and picture tests

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The genetic consultation includes in family-oriented preventive medicine. Mental disorders of a separate member reflect pathological functioning of the whole family. Family sociogram reveal position of the subject in system of interpersonal attitudes and character of communications in family.

20 patients with mental disorders (non-psychotic, schizophrenia, affective, drug abuse dependence) and 6 first degree relatives investigated.

Sociograms of patients with non-psychotic mental disorders represent only close members of family - relatives of the first degree of relationship: children, sibs, parents and husbands; no names of family members; precise circles fill in all space of a circle, not crossed and contact, observed of the integrity of each circle; the circles differ on the size, with often average and allocation of significant persons; the circles are located in the certain order, individual for everyone patient and his family.

On sociograms of patients with psychotic mental disorders number of members of family is expanded, relatives of the first degree of relationship, other relatives and persons are represented and named; circles are interrupted; big variety of sizes of circles and designations of members of family; not filled space of a circle practically; different kinds of connections and symbiotic communications: direct lines with different directions, with elements of a family tree, "nested doll".

Inclusion picture tests in genetic consultation enables to receive the important diagnostic information about communications between members of family, their status, roles and ways of communications. Their use allows to discuss possible ways of the decision of genetic problems of mental disorders.

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The international legion of humanists awarded psychiatry clinic in tuzla with the golden award for peace

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Background and aims: To describe the management of all necessary arrangements for the accommodation and ongoing care of the 164 displaced severe chronic psychiatric patients from the Jakes psychiatric hospital (under the control of Serbs' army) who were off-loaded on the afternoon of 28th of May, 1992 at the gates of the Psychiatry Clinic in Tuzla. during war and post war period.

Method: Analysis of the incomplete medical records, which arrived with patients in Tuzla with analysis of the activities realized

Results: There were 50.6% males, 147 (89.6%) were admitted to the Psychiatry Clinic in Tuzla, 86 (58.5%) were Serbs. The majority were incapable of independent living and required ongoing medical and social care: 81.6% of them had schizophrenia. Older than 50 years were 70 (47.6%) of them, thus made care more complex. Patients were found to be from all regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina. For its work and humanitarian mission and its contribution to peace, trust and co-operation, and for the maintenance of the multi-ethnic

Bosnia Herzegovina, the Psychiatry Clinic in Tuzla received the golden award for peace from the International Legion of Humanists in May 1998.

Conclusion: The employees at the Clinic carried out their duties with a high level of humanity and professionalism. They ensured that these patients received everything that was required in any given moment. It showed that goodness and humanity couldn't be beaten by evil regardless of its form or severity.

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Supporting family members of people with severe mental illness

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Objective: The present study focuses on the impact of integration of family support components to a community support program for people with severe mental illness.

Methods: We believe that family members of people with mental illness need emotional and practical supports to lessen their burden and to achieve self-fulfillment. The more they live a fulfilling life, the more likely they will be able to keep a good relationship with a person with mental illness. Therefore, we utilize five specific interventions; 1) case management for family members, 2) direct support, 3) adjustment of relationship between family members and person with mental illness, 4) cooperation with housing program and respite care program, 5) family psychoeducation program. After interviewing family members regarding our services, process of changes in family members were analyzed by utilizing the stage of changes model (Prochaska & DiClemente, 1983). From this analysis, we identified the appropriate intervention for each stage and effectiveness of each intervention.

Results and Conclusion: Since many people with mental illness are living with their families in Japan, family support needs to be a major and fundamental component of community support programs. This present analysis shows the importance of family support suited to their stage of change, since family circumstance improves when family members have more mental elbowroom while being supporters. Even though our experience is from a specific cultural background, we believe that it would be adaptable enough for other programs with various cultural backgrounds.

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Improving nursing documentation. Action research in a north-Norwegian psychiatric hospital

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The new Norwegian health legislation has increased the quality demands on nursing documentation. In collaboration with four psychiatric wards we have conducted an action research project. The staff at a psychiatric hospital has, together with us, explored their own way of producing written nursing documentation. In collaboration with them, we have analysed 20 patient journals which were made anonymous.

Discourse analysis was used as a tool to uncover un-reflected power relations. We read through the documents with a critical view. After an agreement with the staff, we showed them what we judged to be the weak points. We compared the findings with current professional quality standards. The actual language in the reports was

analysed critically. The purpose was that the staff would become aware of unintentional consequences of their own parlance.

Action research is primarily aimed at developing knowledge for action. The researcher's role is to identify basic problems through critical consciousness-raising. The goal is to help people explore their own situation in order to be able to improve it.

We contributed by giving them a suitable analysis tool, which can be used for exploring own practice. The analysis tool became an aid in making the necessary qualitative improvements. This has made them change their practice. Practice has contributed to theory development, and the research results have been used for implementing concrete changes to this practice.

Today, the wards can exhibit documentation systems that to a large extent satisfy current professional and legal demands.

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Dopamine transporter density of basal ganglia in obsessive-compulsive disorder, measured with SPECT before and after treatment with serotonin reuptake inhibitors

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It has been suggested that dopamine as well as serotonin are associated with the pathophysiology of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Using iodine-123 labelled N-(3-iodopropen-2-yl)-2 β -carbo-methoxy-3 β -(4-chlorophenyl) tropane ([123I]IPT) single-photon emission tomography (SPECT), we investigated the dopamine transporter (DAT) density of the basal ganglia in patients with OCD before and after treatment with serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SRI). Ten patients with OCD before and after treatment with SRI were included. We performed brain SPECT 2 hours after intravenous administration of [123I]IPT and carried out analyses of the obtained SPECT data, which were reconstructed for the assessment of the specific/non-specific DAT binding ratio in the basal ganglia. We then examined the correlation between the scores of OCD symptoms changes, assessed with Yale-Brown Obsessive-Compulsive Scale (Y-BOCS), and DAT binding ratio.

Patients with OCD after treatment with SRI showed a significantly decreased DAT binding ratio in right basal ganglia compared with pre-treatment. The significant correlation was found between the rates of total scores and compulsion scores changes of the Y-BOCS and the changes of DAT binding ratio of the right basal ganglia. These findings suggest that the dopaminergic neurotransmitter system of the basal ganglia could play an important role in the symptoms improvement of OCD patients.

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Clinical characteristics of obsessive compulsive disorder with schizophrenia

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Objectives: We investigated the prevalence of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) among patients with schizophrenia. We also investigated the differences in the psychotic symptoms and suicidality between patients with schizophrenia who did or did not have OC symptoms.

Methods: Seventy-one subjects with the DSM-IV diagnosis of schizophrenia were evaluated by the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I disorders, the Yale-Brown Obsessive-compulsive Scale and the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale.

Results: The OCD patients with schizophrenia were 20 (28.2%) among 71 subjects. The 20 subjects with OCD had significantly more severe negative and total psychotic symptoms evaluated with PANSS than subjects without OCD. The schizophrenia with OCD had significant higher recent suicidal attempt rate than the subjects without OCD.

Conclusions: The results of this study suggest the possibility that OCD symptoms in schizophrenia may be related to negative symptoms and the OC symptoms may be related to the impulsivity expressed as suicidal attempts.

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SMS communication and identity

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Adolescence is a period in growth followed by intensive happenings that in interaction with the environment lead to forming the identity of an individual.

One's identity represents both an experience, as well as experiencing personal absolute sameness and the continuity of feelings, aims at intentions in life.

This service, together with other electronic phenomena, devices and systems play an important part in forming personality and identity.

Growing by the computer, a switch to mobile phones as the "objects of transition" during the process of separation from home and parents all make both children and adults feel seemingly secure, disregarding the trap of entering the world of social autism. The security of non-detecting of emotional expression and seeming social harmony and dynamic give a quasi-reflection of growing and maturity.

The aim of research work: an examination of the influence of SMS on the young during the process of individualization in adolescence.

Methods of research: Inquiry at a primary school included 55 children while at a Grammar School it included 50 children of both male and female sex.

Results: Children from the younger age-group do not reject their parents' calls in 95% of the cases.

They communicate with their parents experiencing their authority and showing a tendency of resistance.

Children from the older age-group in 58% of the cases filtrate the calls from their parents and experience it as a control and a check.

The research showed a significant influence SMS communication during the process of separation, from negation and disidealization to one's personal individualization.

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Investigation into the quality of life of psychiatric patients

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