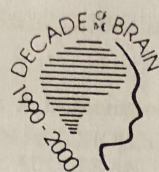


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Nada Pop-Jordanova, T. Zorec, A. Demerdzieva (Skopje):

COMPARISON BETWEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF
ADIPOSE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

A group of adipose school children (Mean age 12.75 ± 1.75 years) selected by chance, was evaluated with Eysenck personality Questionnaire (EPQ), Emotional Profile Index (EPI), General Anxiety Scale (GAS) and compared with control group. Mothers of both groups of children were evaluated with Cornell Index for neurosis. The adult adipose group (mean age 33.78 ± 11.44 years, with excess in body mass $41.03 \pm 8.66\%$) was checked by Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) EPI, Perceived Stress Questionnaire (PSQ) and Family Inventory Life Events (FILE).

The obtained results for adipose children, compared to the control group, showed significant differences in psychopathologic (P) and social (L) scores on EPQ ($p < 0.05$) as well as moderate actual anxiety level on GAS ($M = 25.70 \pm 4.6$). On EPI these children had high scores on B-scale (77.66)-i.e. they want to be presented as socially acceptable; they were also characterized with extremely high scores for reproduction (85), incorporation (85.33), self-defense (65.33) and elements for deprivation (50). The mothers showed high level of general neurosis ($p < 0.05$) in comparison with control group and the accentuated tendencies for somatic complaints, compulsivity and hypersensitivity.

Adipose adults showed moderate problems in FILE ($M = 11.8 \pm 6.2$ especially present in social interrelations), as well as high scores on PSQ (0.47). They presented on MMPI scores in normal range, but profile with picks for D-Pt-Sc which means subdepression, anxiety with acting-out presentation, difficulty in social interrelations, emotional deprivation, and ambivalence. The EPI for those patients showed also high b-scores similar to children (69.00), as well as high scores for extroversion (79), incorporation (78) and depression (58).

Globally, common features in adipose adults and children are: need for social acceptance, subdepression, seeming extroversion, actual neurosis with low level for frustration tolerance, and hypersensitivity.

In addition to the compulsive-obsessive manner of nutrition, the somatic complaints of neurotic mothers have shown to be related with adiposity of their children.

Key words: eating disorders, adipose adults, adipose children, psychological characteristics

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