

**PRETERM INFANTS: A CLOSE LOOK AT COGNITIVE AND
BEHAVIOURAL OUTCOMES**

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Carole Muller-Nixe, François Ansermet**

Forty-seven prematurely born children (25–33 week gestation) and a control group of 25 full term infants were evaluated at 6 months, 18 months (corrected ages), and 46 months (non-corrected age). At each observation point a developmental quotient (DQ) was computed and mothers were interviewed regarding their children's behavioural problems. The DQ of premature children was found to be lower than that of full term children at 46 months (but not at 6 and 18 months) and behavioural problems were reported more often. However, when the DQ was corrected for expected term at the third observation point and socio-economic status was introduced as a covariate in the analysis, there was no longer any difference between the two groups. Also, when the severity of the mothers' post-traumatic symptoms was considered as a covariate, there were no differences between groups concerning behavioural problems. These findings suggest that control group studies comparing the outcomes of prematurely born children with those of children born full term should investigate such confounding factors more closely. **KEY WORDS:** preterm infants, cognitive development, behavioural problems.

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PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CHILD PROTECTION

Antonio Galán Rodríguez

An important gap exists between Psychoanalysis and the Services designed to assist maltreated children. This paper reflects on the reasons and presents various proposals to bring them closer. A new understanding of the differences between Freud and Ferenczi is given to illustrate the necessity of a change of attitude in relation to abused children. The contributions of the Independent Group are examined from the perspective of the child's needs. Finally, the negative effects of pathological parental attitudes on child development are considered in relation to the demands posed on professionals. The paper concludes that it is necessary to systematize psychoanalytic contributions on maltreatment and reconsider our attitude towards childhood abuse. **KEY WORDS:** psychoanalysis, maltreatment, child protection services.

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DIAGNOSTIC CONFUSION IN TODAY'S CHILD CLINICAL PRACTICE. A CRITICAL VIEW FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS (PART 1)

Esperanza Pérez de Pla

A large group of children and adolescents with problems in school, conduct disorders and impulsivity do not achieve effective results after many years of psychiatric treatment, having received several different diagnosis and pharmacological treatments. Two clinical situations are presented where diagnostic confusion unables professionals to think and adopt an integrated and multifactorial approach. In Part 2 of the paper a reflection on errors in general clinical practice is exposed and related to the history of child psychiatry during the last 40 years. KEY WORDS: diagnostic confusion, ADHD, underlying psychopathology, family disfunctions.

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EMPATHY AND TONIC DIALOGUE: THE SEMINAL WORK OF JULIÁN AJURIAGUERRA

José Guimón

This paper summarises recent attempts to find neural bases to concepts such as empathy and intersubjectivity. Empathy intervenes as an "intersubjective dialogue" between the mother and her child, the patient and the therapist, and in all human relations. This intersubjective empathic dialogue, already described by Julián Ajuriaguerra in the 1950's as "tonic dialogue", has found an attractive physiological base in the recent findings on "mirror neurons" although it still cannot be totally extrapolated to human beings. KEY WORDS: tonic dialogue, intersubjectivity, empathy.

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WORKING WITH PARENTS OF PREMATURE CHILDREN IN A NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Marcel Cortada Esteve

This paper reflects on the difficulties that appear in the establishment of attachment bonds between parents and babies admitted into a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. A clinical case is presented and used to reflect on how to handle and manage these problems. The paper considers how the personal situation of the parents, the pregnancy and childbirth, the hospital admission, the particular environment of the neonatal intensive care unit and the type of professional practice offered by the assistance team are factors which can awaken intense emotions and sensations which, if poorly elaborated, can generate great difficulty to the baby's global development and family. KEY WORDS: prematurity, attachment bond, parenthood, first relationships, perinatal psychology.

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THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT AND FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN THE EVOLUTION OF EATING DISORDERS

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Margarita Martínez Sánchez

This paper presents a follow-up study designed to determine the relation between the evolution of Eating Disorders (ED) and various variables related to social support. A total of 34 patients were evaluated at the beginning of treatment and after four years. The results showed that improvements in the ED were related to the presence of couple relationships, high functional adjustment in the family and strong adherence to treatment. The children of families with high levels of interference and deficits in emotional expressiveness presented an increased severity of psychopathological comorbidity. KEY WORDS: family relationships, social support, anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, follow-up study.

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THE TRANSMISSION OF FAMILY TEMPORARINESS

Rosa Jaitin

This paper is centred on the process of psychoanalytic family therapy and the presence and rhythm of encounters between the family and therapist. The potential space that puts on the scene forms which reveal a new memory of transgenerational rhythms in family bonds is considered. The potentiality of this encounter will open new paths of identification and initiate an itinerary that pursues the consolidation of new modalities of relational configurations. The possibility of creating a space for life wishes and thinking of new forms of alliances to sustain these leads the way to the expression of family suffering, introducing the dimensions of future and change. KEY WORDS: psychoanalytic family psychotherapy, temporality, protorhythm, transgenerational, dream.

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AN EXPERIENCE WITH A GROUP OF PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SEVERE MENTAL DISORDERS

Pilar López Fraile and Blanca Tàrrega Esteller

This paper intends to transmit the experience with a group of parents assisted at the Child and Juvenile Mental Health Centre of Tarragona (Spain). The group was created to consider and reflect on parental roles with children presenting severe mental disorders, particularly of the autistic spectrum. We attempted to increase parents' comprehension of the education of their children and offer them skills. The paper exposes the topics and issues that appeared in the group, the group dynamics, the technique used and finally discusses the obtained results. KEY WORDS: parent group therapy, autism, pervasive developmental disorder, severe mental disorder.

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AGGRESSIVENESS AS A SYMPTOM Eulàlia Ruiz Farré

This paper explores how aggressive feelings are present in our normality and how the symptom of aggressive behaviour is present in different pathologies. Several theories and studies on this subject are outlined. Different meanings given to these symptoms are discussed and clinical material is presented. KEY WORDS: violence, aggressive behaviour, symptom, depression.

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CATASTROPHIC CHANGE: FLORENCIA AND THE IDEA MACHINE Samira Carlín, Audrey Fleischman, Rocío Gabilondo, Valeria García and Verónica Vigil

The authors of this paper present the analytic process of a seven year old girl and attempt to show how the use of models in clinical experience can become a valuable instrument for containing the turbulence which characterizes psychic growth in analysis. The authors illustrate how these models are constructed in the intimacy of the analytic pair and how they offer the possibility of giving sense to otherwise unbearable experiences. KEY WORDS: use of models, catastrophic change, psychic growth.

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