

Psychiatric aspects of eating disorders in childhood

Genidi, Amr Abdel-Khaleq

Cairo Univ. (EGY). Fac. of Med.

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From the psychological point of view, food is used by the child as a symbol of communication of meanings. Also, food is one of the most important media of interaction between the child & his mother (or substitute) - the most important figure among all surroundings, especially in those early critical years of life. The development of an eating disorder in a child may be due. Inheritance, Temperament, Physical disease, especially brain disorders, Environmental factors (including family & school environments). The eating disorders were classified into. Primary catching disorders, Eating disorders secondary to another psychiatric illness, such as; Anxiety neurosis, Hysterical neurosis, Obsessive compulsive neurosis, Depressive neurosis, Depressive psychosis, Childhood autism, Childhood schizophrenia, Disintegrative psychoses, Mental retardation, Attention deficit disorder, Primary attachment failure of early infancy, Each eating disorder, whether primary or secondary, falls in one of either subgroups; Disorders related to the process of intake. Disorders related to the process of digestion; to assess a child with an eating disorder, it is essential to interview both the child & his parents, first separately, if the child is not too young, & then together, to observe how they interact with each other. Psychiatric & social sheet must be taken, & it is often necessary to observe the child in a play interview, where he is left to "play out" his inner world. In The treatment of children with eating disorders, many lines of treatment can be followed, according to the disorder ; Drug treatment, Psychotherapy with the child, Play therapy, Family therapy & Behaviour therapy