

Depressive symptoms in preschool children

Afifi, Elham S.

Supervised by Khalil, Afaf H. Muhammad, Aulweya

Ain-Shams Univ., Cairo (EGY). Fac. of Med.

Thesis ; M.D. 1992

This study was done on a sample of 30 cases aged 4-6 years old with depressive disorder diagnosed according to DSM-III criteria. A control group of 30 children with the same age and sex was chosen. The study aimed to identify the depressive symptoms in preschool children, study the possible contributing factors related to depression and study the parental attitudes as cofactor for depression. A complete psychiatric examination to the child was applied to detect the depressive symptoms and the presence of other psychiatric disorders. A complete medical examination to exclude any organic etiology of depression was also done. A psychological assessment was done using parental attitudes scale. The commonest presenting symptoms were irritability, sadness (100%), followed by aggression (66.3%) and lastly submission (33.3%). Also, there was a significant percentage of depressed children had insomnia (56.7%) compared with 6.7% of the healthy control. It was concluded that childhood depression is an important and common clinical entity, refers to an internalized mood with a child described as feeling sad.