

Prevalence of anxiety symptoms in childhood and the underlying psychiatric disorders

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The aim of the work is to survey the prevalence of anxiety symptoms in children at the primary school and the underlying psychiatric disorders and to detect the psychosocial factors involved in the occurrence of anxiety disorders in children.

The study includes 1699 students from Heliopolis Educational Area (3 private schools and 2 governmental schools), they are aged from 8-12 years, equal number of students is included as controls, they are selected to be of equal age range, same sex and same class from the same school, and both sexes were included. They are subjected to: 1- CAS 2- Goodenough Harris Drawing test. 3- Questionnaire for abnormal psychosocial situations. 4- EPQ. 5-Semistructured clinical interview.

There are many factors associated with the increased likelihood of anxiety symptoms: 1- factors related to the child himself e.g. girls are more vulnerable than boys, 1st born child and those with birth order more than five are more vulnerable, 2- factors related to the family e.g. children who are member of large family size, children of disturbed parental relationship either death or divorce, 3- factors related to the school; although children attending the governmental schools are more vulnerable to develop anxiety symptoms than those at the private schools, although, the home atmosphere itself and not the school which is responsible for this difference.