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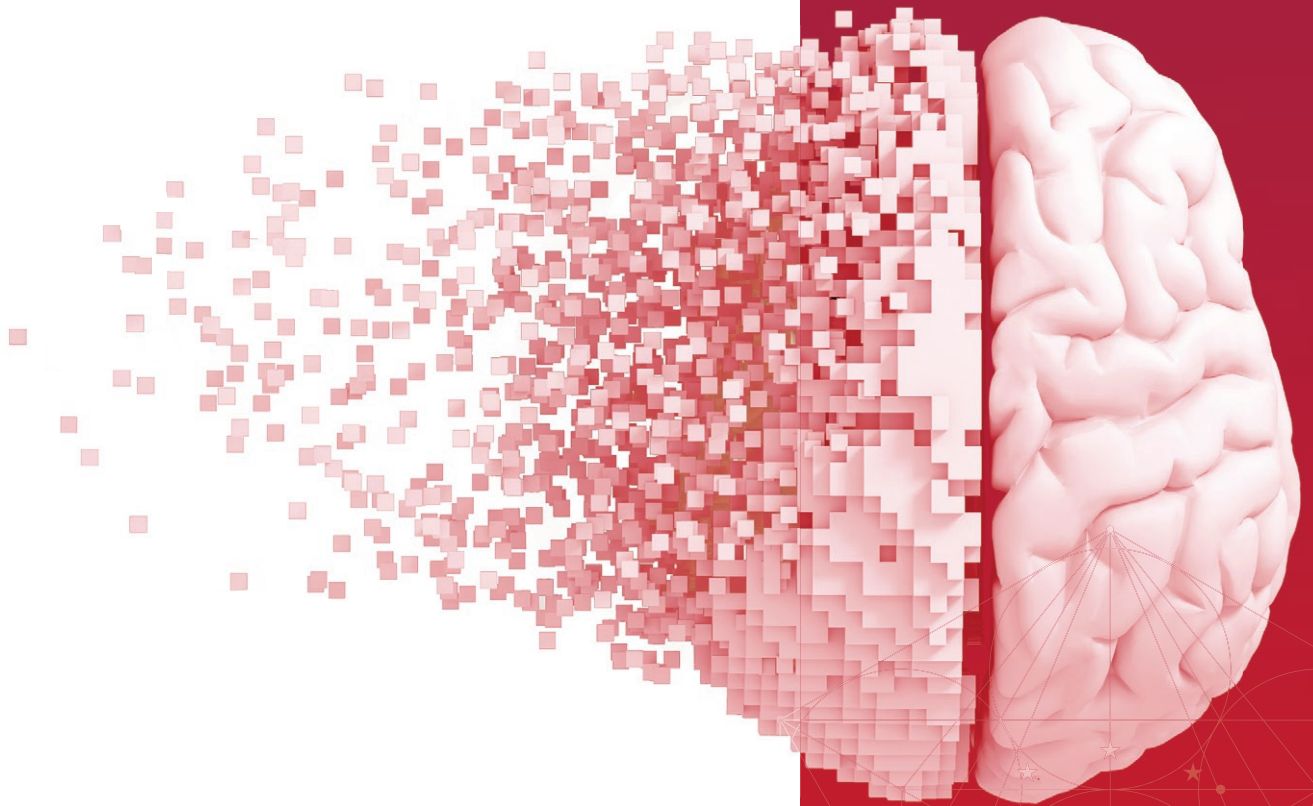
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# EPA 2020

28<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN  
CONGRESS OF PSYCHIATRY

4-7 July 2020

**VIRTUAL CONGRESS**



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## EPV0218

### PTSD symptoms in adolescents from low- and middle-income countries: international child mental health - study group

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**Introduction:** Exposure to traumatic events in childhood and adolescence is associated with the development and maintenance of various psychopathologies, such as anxiety, depression, somatic, but most frequently with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Adolescent PTSD is unresearched in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

**Objectives:** To evaluate the presence of PTSD symptoms in trauma-exposed adolescents from LMICs.

**Methods:** The study included 3370 adolescents (1465 (43.5%) males; age mean 15.41 (1.65) years), experiencing at least one traumatic event, from Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Indonesia, Montenegro, Nigeria, Palestinian Territories, the Philippines, Romania, Serbia, and Portugal, a high-income country, as a reference point. The UCLA PTSD Reaction Index for DSM-5 (PTSD-RI) was used.

**Results:** 960 (28.5%) adolescents had two to three PTSD symptoms. The percentages of adolescents with symptoms from all four DSM-5 criteria for PTSD were 6.2-8.1% in Indonesia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro; and 9.2-10.5% in Philippines, Croatia and Brazil. From Portugal, 10.7% adolescents fall into this criterion, while 13.2% and 15.3% for Palestine and Nigeria, respectively. Younger age, experiencing war, being forced to have sex, and greater symptom severity (i.e., persistent avoidance, negative alterations in cognitions and mood, and alterations in arousal and reactivity) appeared as the predictors of PTSD symptoms present.

**Conclusions:** Every third adolescent in LMICs might have some PTSD symptoms after experiencing a traumatic event, while one in ten might have enough symptoms to be diagnosed with PTSD. Younger adolescents, exposed to war or forced to sex, and those with more severe PTSD symptoms are at the greatest risk.

**Conflict of interest:** No

**Keywords:** UCLA PTSD index; Culture; traumatic events; prevalence

## EPV0219

### Disorders of adaptation in children from forcibly displaced families

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**Introduction:** Children are too vulnerable to psycho-traumatic factors. Their unformed psyche cause a more severe response to the action of a traumatic situation, as well as the low level of control of emotional reactions.

**Objectives:** Clinical-psychopathological and pathopsychological features of children from forcibly displaced families with

adaptation disorders were investigated with separation of targets of psychotherapy.

**Methods:** We have used the following research methods to achieve our goal: clinical psychopathology, psychometric, psychodiagnosis and medical statistics.

**Results:** The prevalence of the expressed manifestations of distress in the structure of clinical manifestations in the examined children was found: discomfort, somatic equivalents of anxiety; involuntarily intolerable repetitive ideas and images about stressful experiences, compulsive actions with anxiety and mental stress; the presence of cognitive and somatic correlates of depression. It was determined that in psychological mechanisms of formation of adaptation disorders in children from forcibly displaced families, there are character traits (incredulity, excessive vulnerability, negativity, stubbornness, self-centeredness, coldness and formality in contacts, irresponsibility, capriciousness, emotional imbalance), as well as trait anxiety.

**Conclusions:** The age-sex and demographic features of the formation of anxiety and depression level were established among children from forcibly displaced families, with the establishment of correlation-regression interconnections with the forming factors. The presence and severity of the main protective psychophysiological mechanisms were identified in children from forcibly displaced families; and the targets of psychotherapy were detected.

**Conflict of interest:** No

**Keywords:** children from forcibly displaced families; adaptation disorders; psycho-traumatic factor; post-traumatic stress disorder

## EPV0220

### A brief paradigm to evaluate mentalization and theory of mind, in preschool children

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**Introduction:** Reliable instruments that evaluate core developmental capacities for mentalization/theory of mind, based on normative developmental characteristic, in preschool children divided by sex, are word wide scarce.

**Objectives:** Develop a brief paradigm for mentalization and theory of the mind that allows the analysis of these dimensions separately and in groups.

**Methods:** We developed a brief paradigm to evaluate Mentalization (face emotion recognition), and Theory of mind (agency: cause-effect actions). a) Face coupling: face-draws cards with six basic emotions are presented to be coupled-paired (coupling the same emotions). Avoiding naming (language effect), or confrontation (identification by explicit knowledge). Focusing on perceptual features of recognition and coupling. b) Agency: six histories presented in three separated cards (beginning-history setting, history action, and final effect), in each history a children is the agent, and other children is the recipient of the agency. Children must order the cards in sequence. c) Psycholinguistic performance: audio-recording was performed of the spontaneous oral-language production for each history elaboration. No specific instruction is given. For all three dimensions several parameters were registered and numerically qualified; 100 normative children from 3 to 6 years old (balanced by sex) were studied; a clinical behavioral scale for autistic traits, and performance in a computerized attention-detection test, was included as co-variables.