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THE AUTOPERCEPTION OF INTELLIGENCE IN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY OF PARANOID PATIENTS

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Self-perception, as a part of self - concept, is a form of perception where the object being observed and the observer are one and the same. The self-concept is a cognitive structure and it mediates between social structures and behavior. In group psychotherapy, a therapist's interventions are focused on the replacement of a false paranoid identity (where the overestimation of one's own intelligence is part of the false image one has of himself) with a real one. Six psychotherapeutic groups of paranoid patients were studied. The methodological procedure known as the analysis of relations was used. It is a combination of the sociometric questionnaire and the test of social perception. The degree of appropriateness of auto-perception of intelligence is evaluated. The determination of the auto-perception of intelligence was carried out by comparing real ranks (from the real IQ) and the ascribed ranks (on the basis of the selected positions where the patient marked his own intelligence to be). The results for all the groups are consistent: there is a definitive (both in terms of the number and the degree) overestimation of one's own intelligence. It can be found at the basis of the paranoid pathology expression where we find the parallel nature of the projection of the introject of the aggressor and the introject of narcissistic superiority, partially incorporated into the unreal self concept. Psychotherapy at this level of solidly fixated conceptual categorization with a "falsification" of perceptual data is of crucial importance for the "dissolution" of the paranoid state.