

SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR IN ADOLESCENTS DIAGNOSED WITH DEPRESSION: COMPARISON WITH A NORMATIVE SAMPLE RELATIVE TO PARENTAL ATTITUDES

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Introduction: Adolescence is a developmental stage, which includes many changes. Relationships with parents can support the adaptation to these changes or contribute to a crisis period, in which psychological disorders, such as depression or self-destructive behaviours, may occur.

Objectives: The objective was to identify the types of parental attitudes and their correlation with the occurrence self-destructive behaviours in their children.

Aims: The goal is to examine the relationship between parental attitudes and the tendency toward self-destructive behavior among youngsters with depression.

Methods: This is a comparative study between a sample of youngsters, ranking from 15 to 19 years, diagnosed with depression and presented self-destructive behaviours, and a normative sample comprising of youngsters who have no such history, attending secondary school. All participants in the survey completed the experimental version of the Self-Injury Self-Report Inventory (Kammie R. Juzwin, 2004) which identifies types of self-destructive behaviours (direct and indirect), and the Parental Attitude Scale (M. Plopa, 2005), which identifies five types of parental attitudes.

Results: Parents of teenagers diagnosed with depression manifest an inconsistent ($p=0,003$), emotionally rejecting or over-demanding ($p=0,011$) attitude towards their adolescent children more often than parents of children in the control group. There is a link between the inconsistent and rejecting attitude of the mother and the occurrence of direct self-destructive behaviors ($r= 0,356$; $p< 0,05$).

Conclusions: Parental attitudes towards the teenagers in the control group are more positive (autonomy, acceptance) than those displayed by the parents of adolescents with depression.