

FROM EDITORS

Dear Readers,

According to the original proposal of H. Selye [1963] stress, perceived as „stress of life”, constituted a non-specific reaction of the body to many factors, inducing threat to homeostasis. Since then, the very course of this reaction, as well as its early and late consequences, have been considered to be essential for the health status. In many diseases, this non-specific reaction complements and modifies the effect of specific pathogenic factors. In this issue of Archives of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, three articles refer directly to this topic.

Kokoszka et al. analyze the stressful impact of waiting for cardiac surgery. The results of studies by Rybakowski et al. suggest an important role of stressful, undesirable childhood experiences on the later clinical features of bipolar affective disorder. Also the study of Jordanian authors is related to the problem of stress - if the severity and context of professional burnout differentiates the group of teachers and nurses, perhaps stress generated by the conditions of their work can explain these differences?

Although the subject of three consecutive articles, read outright, concerns other issues, i.e. variables shaping the personality determinants of behavior and disorders, they also lead to significant traces of the impact of stress, which subtly shapes the coping mechanisms with life adversities.

Rice et al. in an interesting, multi-stage questionnaire study, offer a tool to assess the male sense of guilt and shame as a variable that co-determines the motive of seeking psychiatric help. In turn, Cheek et al. studied in a group of outpatient patients the way in which the level of narcissism they reveal correlates with interpersonal problems and how this correlation changes under the influence of a therapeutic program. The scientific search of Trusova and colleagues suggest that the model indicating the importance of cognitive control best describes cognitive dysfunctions in people detoxified due to impaired alcohol use. Even in a seemingly one-dimensional, somatogenic impact of developmental defects on the occurrence of a short psychotic episode, as in the case described by Bonadade et al., the broadly understood stress could probably be considered as a covariate defining the picture and timing of a turbulent short-term psychotic symptoms in a well-functioning patient.

An interesting complementation to the presented studies are opinions expressed in the work of Cyranka et al., postulating the need for interdisciplinary cooperation of various professions participating in the provision of social assistance in Poland. It seems that the multidimensional impact of stress well justifies the need for such cooperation.

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SOURCE REFERENCE

1. Selye H. Stres życia [Stress of Life]. Warszawa: PZWL, 1963.

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