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Topic: EPV04 - e-Poster 04: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Representations of the Family System in Childhood and Adolescent

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The development of identity on one case requires a new type thinking about the self, but on the other hand the individual also has to maintain its continuity over time. Adolescent identity crisis means a particular challenge for individuals. The role of the young person's social environment, the family members (primarily the parents) is increased in this process, because they can effectively support the reorganization of the identity. In this way, the teenager can reach the consolidation of his/her identity that gives the person the chance to form proper human relation(ship)s. The aim of my study was to explore the changes of the family representations from childhood to adolescent. I used Gehring's (2010) Family System Test to compare the family representations (in current and ideal situations) with one another. In accordance with the developmental theories the results confirmed more differences between the subsamples. The adolescents' family representations reflected the process of the social and emotional separation, as well as the need for increased autonomy could be also recognized. Consequently, an essential opportunity for future researches could be to extend the investigations and involve individuals from several age groups into the study. Finally, the exploration of the cultural differences linking to mental representations about the family organization could be also an interesting focus to examine.