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Personality features of children treated due to vocal nodules

Noisy, loud and constantly moving patients require greater supervision of the medical personnel.

Clinical observations confirmed that the patients hospitalised due to vocal nodules are distinguished by increased motor and emotional activity as compared to other children (1, 2, 3, 4).

The aim of the study was to define the selected personality features of children who were treated due to vocal nodules.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study included 33 children with vocal nodules aged 8–12 (mean: 10.8) treated in the Department of Paediatric Otolaryngology, Phoniatry and Audiology and Outpatients

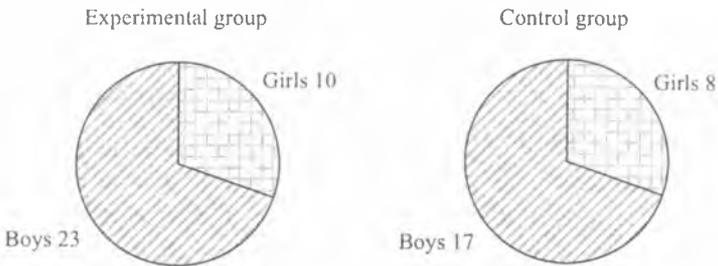


Fig. 1. Gender of examined groups

Phoniatic Clinic of Children's University Hospital in Lublin. The study was carried out from October 2001 to April 2001. The patients constituted an experimental group that was selected on the basis of the video-stroboscopic tests. The control group was made up of 25 children treated due to enlarged tonsils. The experimental group comprised 10 girls and 23 boys. In the control group there were 8 girls and 17 boys. In both groups in spite of otolaryngologic tests the personality tests were performed with R.B. Porter and R.B. Cattell's test "What do you like doing and what do you like thinking about?" in the authorised version of J. Kostorzewski (5). This is a standardised personality questionnaire designed for children aged 8-12. The method allows for defining 14 personality features. Each factor – personality feature – can be represented as bipolar continuum, which depends on the degree of intensification of a given feature in a 5-degree-scale. Individual factors are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Personality features designed for children aged 8-12

Factor	Intensification of the feature	
	0	5
A	reserved, formal, aggressive, stubborn	friendly, sincere, obedient, helpful
B	low intelligence quotient	high intelligence quotient
C	emotionally immature	emotionally mature
D	peaceful, phlegmatic	impatient, excitable
E	docile, dependent	self-confident
F	serious	carefree
G	negligent, unreliable	conscientious, persistent
H	shy, sensitive	risky, rude
I	tough, resolutely thinking	is not aware of the drawbacks
J	likes to do what others do	everything does its own way
N	lack of clear and precise thinking	exact, precise in thinking
O	self-assured	prone to accusing itself
Q ₃	does not control itself	is in control of itself
Q ₄	low nervous tension	high nervous tension

DISCUSSION

The obtained results of psychological tests were analysed statistically. On the basis of the statistic analysis performed with a statistical test of the degree of hypothesis reliability with assuming 5% error there were selected 8 personality features with statistically significant differences in mean values.

COMPARISON OF MEAN VALUES OF PERSONALITY FEATURES IN EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUP

In the studied group the highest statistical significance on the level of $p < 0.05$ was achieved by factors: A, B, C, D, E, G, J, Q₄.

The children who have a low value of the factor A are characterised by a high level of aggression and are formal in acting, they are troublesome. The factor B defines the level of intelligence. The studied group achieved high level of mental skills. High results obtained with the factors C, E, J mean that the children are emotionally mature, they are adaptable with tendency towards domination over the others. The studied subjects are self-confident; they try to do everything their own way independently of the others. They have independent opinions different from the opinions of the group and they are often in opposition. High results in the factors D and Q₄ indicate a great excitability, increased nervous tension and tendency towards emphasising their own "ego". Low results of the factor G with relation to the control group indicate the will to show off and a lack of patience in acting.

CONCLUSIONS

The performed tests confirm that children treated due to vocal nodules on the vocal folds show an increased excitability, aggression, and nervousness. Simultaneously they are emotionally mature, intelligent. Most of them are great individuals. They try to emphasise their independence and often oppose the group, which leads to some conflicts. Their rebellious character, independence and self-assurance may be showed in the tendencies towards leadership and domination. The accumulation of the above personality features often causes improper behaviour manifested by overusing voice and improper voice emission. Probably it may be the factor predisposing for the occurrence of vocal nodules. The obtained results

of psychological tests indicate a significant role of psychotherapy in the treatment of vocal nodules.

During psychotherapeutic activities attention should be paid to the relaxing exercises that release the increased emotional tension.

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SUMMARY

There were estimated 14 features of personality of the children treated for vocal nodules. The purpose of study was definition of the selected features, which are typical of the examined group. The conclusion drawn from the conducted studies was: the children cured of the vocal nodules are more excitable, nervous, independent and often – individualists. They are inclined to leading and dominating. The results of the study suggest that psychotherapy can be completion of traditional treatment for vocal nodules in children.

Cechy osobowości dzieci leczonych z powodu guzków głosowych

Określono 14 cech osobowości u dzieci leczonych z powodu guzków na fałdach głosowych. Celem badań było określenie wybranych cech, które są charakterystyczne dla grupy. Na podstawie przeprowadzonych badań stwierdzono, że dzieci leczone z powodu guzków głosowych przejawiają wzmoczoną pobudliwość, nerwowość, niezależność, są częściej indywidualistami. Mają tendencje do przewodzenia i dominowania. Wyniki badań sugerują, że tradycyjne leczenie guzków głosowych u dzieci może być uzupełniane psychoterapią.