

NEW ASPECTS ON THE PATHOLOGY OF DERMATOGLYPHICS IN INFANTILE AUTISM

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The present paper resumes an older study (performed in 2003, on 137 subjects, 67 boys and 70 girls) – on a higher number of subjects – of the autistic syndrome from the perspective of dermatoglyphic pathology. In this new, improved version, the study analyzes 207 autists (104 boys and 103 girls) with ages between 2.5 and 18 years, all coming from Moldova, from whom 414 finger and palmar prints had been taken over. A first observation to be made is that the series of autists investigated in 2008 shows the same distortions or dermatoglyphic anomalies as that of 2003, the slight differences recorded, not exceeding 2%, occurring rather accidentally, and not as a result of sampling, the more so that both groups of affected patients maintain the same tendency of distribution of these distortions as a function of sex, laterality and on the 5 cumulated fingers, too, which is significantly different from the case of the reference.

Present in both boys and girls and on both hands of the affected subjects of both series, the distortions put into evidence in autists were also present in the patients with epilepsy and sekulary IEP-es investigated in 2002 and 2004 – which indicates a unitary dermatoglyphic behavior in brain affections. The explanation is that the encephalon comes from the same embryonal foil, “*the ectoblast*”, as the skin, so that any disorder produced at brain level has repercussions on the epidermal papillary ridges, as well. The results obtained, supporting the conclusions of the study on autism, contribute to a better knowledge of the indices of dermatoglyphic diagnosis of the autistic syndrome, to be further employed as “*markers*” for a timely discovery of the persons risking to be affected by such a severe malady, so extensively present in the Romanian population, in general, and in that of Moldova, especially.

INTRODUCTION

The dermatoglyphic study of infantile autism from a pathological perspective has been approached as early as 2003 when, thanks to the cooperation, established in 1991, with the Mental Health Center of the “Socola” University Clinical Hospital of Iași, the authors succeeded in dermatoglyphically investigating, out of the numerous subjects affected by various congenital and hereditary maladies, a total of 137 autists (67 boys and 70 girls); the material thus collected has been discussed in various published contributions (Țarcă 2003: 91–98; Țarcă *et al.* 2003: 11–17; Țarcă 2003: 187–199).