

ON THE PATHOLOGY OF DERMATOGLYPHICS IN ENURESIS

ANA ȚARCĂ¹, ELENA TULUC²

We present the results of a digital dermatoglyphic study on a sample of 89 enuresis-affected patients (48 boys and 41 girls), aged 6 to 18, all of Moldavian origin, from whom 178 fingerprints had been collected.

The overall digital dermatoglyphic pattern of these patients reveals some *important malformative sketches (anomalies or distortions)*, the percent ratio of which is sensibly different from the values recorded in the reference sample. This situation indicates that the causal factors involved in the development of enuresis occurred in the first 3–5 months of intra-uterine life, period corresponding to the development of the epidermal papillary ridges – seen here as having suffered significant deviations from normality, – even though the malady manifests in one of the post-natal stages (i.e. after the age of 5), and under the influence of several complex factors.

Affecting both the boys and (more so) the girls, and manifested on both hands (but especially on the left one), the digital dermatoglyphic distortions might be employed as “*markers*” for a precocious diagnosis of risk of enuresis, until the development of more extended clinical tests, and the recorded frequency values *as reference data in the screening for the malady at populational level*.

Key words: dermatoglyphics, pathology, enuresis, distortions (anomalies).

INTRODUCTION

The present paper is devoted to the digital dermatoglyphics of patients suffering from enuresis, a first investigation of this type in Romania. Labeled as a malady manifested only at ages older than 5 years – when the mictional control is already established by the maturation of the nervous system, known as mastering the urinary bladder (Meilă *et al.*, 1988: 580–600, Gearhart *et al.*, 2001: 497–510), *the enuresis* is defined as an either uncontrolled or involuntary mictional action (urinary incontinence), in a socially unacceptable moment or place (Zamfir *et al.*, 1996: 280–283, Gearhart *et al.*, 2001: 499–507). It may appear either exclusively during the day (diurnal enuresis) or exclusively during the night (nocturnal

¹ “Fr.I. Rainer” Institute of Anthropology, Iași Division, antropologie.iasi@yahoo.com

² “Saint Mary” University Hospital of Pediatrics – Iași.