

STUDY ON THE PATHOLOGY OF DERMATOGLYPHICS IN HYPOSPADIAS

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The paper presents the characteristics of digital dermatoglyphics in a sample of 51 boys affected by hypospadias, with ages between 2 and 16 years, all coming from Moldova, from whom 102 finger and palmar prints had been collected. Although the patients suffering from hypospadias generally evidence the same dermatoglyphic pattern as the reference sample, they nevertheless show certain important distortions, the percent values of which are quite close to those recorded in children affected by epilepsy, autism and sekelary infantile encephalopathy, in this respect differentiating them sensibly from the reference sample. Present on both hands of the patients, and especially on the left one (known to bear most of the malformative sketches), such distortions, expressed as deviations from normal frequency values, might be employed as reference data for a precocious screening of the disease at population level.

Key words: Dermatoglyphics, Distortions (Anomalies), Pathology, Hypospadias.

INTRODUCTION

Hypospadias has been described as early as the IInd century b.c. by surgeons Heliodorus and Antyllus of Alexandria (Sheldon *et al.* 1987: 1259–1272). Hypospadias is now defined as a “congenital malformation”, characterized by an abnormal opening of the urethra, on the ventral side of the penis, in the vicinity of its top, as well as by a more or less intense aplasy of its ventral side” (Vasile *et al.* 2002; www.fokusonkidhealth.com). Depending on the level at which the meat (in most cases, also stenosed) opens, the hypospadias may occur in various anatomopathological forms (e.g. glandular, subcoronal, in anterior, medium or posterior penian position, vulviform, scrotal, peno-scrotal, perineal, etc.). In its most severe forms – usually associated with other complex malformations – the meat is placed more distantly from the top of the penis (Fallon *et al.* 1976: 585–586). Hypospadias

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