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Human representation in the Rorschach of pregnant adolescents and its clinical significance

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Forty pregnant adolescents, aged 12 to 16 years, attending prenatal services in public hospitals of São Paulo, Brazil, were clinically interviewed. The Rorschach was given to 20 of the girls and the TAT to 13 of them. This presentation focuses on human representations in the Rorschach and its meanings. The group performance on the Rorschach showed high percentage of H responses (human content), low percentage of K (kinesthetic) responses and extremely high percentage of responses of anatomic contents (especially human female internal organs). Several responses of perception of movement in internal organs were given, a peculiar finding which hasn't been reported in the literature. Regarding human contents, there was almost complete absence of representation of female human figures.

These results reveal difficulties in developing a mature female identity, confirmed by data from the clinical interviews and the TAT. Pregnancy in this group could be considered as the acting-out of unconscious conflicts related to growth and the difficulties of acquiring autonomy from the parents as well as a mature gender identity.

gender identity.

We discuss possible implications for the future relationship with the baby. We emphasize the importance of psychological assistance to pregnant adolescents and their families, preferably psychodynamically oriented.