

Behavioral and Emotional Problems in Children and Adolescents with Obesity: A Preliminary Report.

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Background: parent-child agreement regarding emotional and behavioral problems in adolescents with obesity was measured.

Methods: one hundred Italian adolescents with obesity (36 males, 64 females, mean age \pm SD: 15.3 \pm 1.61 years, mean body mass index, BMI: 37.9 \pm 5.48 kg/m²), hospitalized for a 3-week multidisciplinary body weight reduction program at Istituto Auxologico Italiano, Piancavallo-Verbania, Italy, and one of their parents (n = 100, 40 fathers, 60 mothers) participated in the study. Achenbach's Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL) for parents and the Youth Self Report (YSR) for teens were administered.

Results: most of the CBCL and YSR scores were normal, with more borderline and clinical scores being found in CBCL (29% of borderline scores in attention problems, 28% in affective problems, and 26% in ADHD; 32% of clinical scores in affective problems, 23% in withdrawn/depressed, and 22% in anxiety problems and somatic complains subscales) than in YSR (19% of borderline scores in affective behaviors and 17% in somatic complains; 15% of clinical scores in anxiety problems and 17% in withdrawn/depressed subscale). Young females reported greater anxiety problems ($p = 0.009$), oppositional defiant problems ($p = 0.029$), anxiety/depressed ($p = 0.030$), and internalizing problems ($p = 0.045$) than males. Pearson's coefficients ranged between 0.273 to 0.517.

Conclusions: this study provides information on the cross-informant evaluation of psychological profiles with CBCL and YSR in a clinical sample of adolescents with obesity and their parents.

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