

“The origin of Alice in wonderland syndrome: Charles dodgson and his attraction to small children”

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Abstract

1864, Lewis Carroll wrote the novel of Alice in Wonderland “Alice’s Adventures under Ground”. Lewis Carroll was the pseudonym of the researcher Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. His fondness for small children led to the writing of “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”, which was published in 1865, a story beginning with rowing Lorina, Alice and Edith, the three small daughters of the College Dean H.G. Liddell, through the Thames for a picnic near the city of Binsey. Charles Dodgson had a fable for small children and painted them naked. Dodgson spent special attention to small children with paintings and photographs. Charles Dodgson wrote diary about the experience with the three daughters, especially Alice, unfortunately diaries between 18.4.1858 till 8.5.1862 were missing. These parts of the diary were never found.

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Editorial

1955 the British psychiatrist John Todd (1914-1987) described the condition of micro- and macrosomatognosia, altered perceptions of body image and body illusions, and described it as Alice in Wonderland Syndrome. 1955, John Todd described the syndrome and gave it the literary name in his publication. The first description of the syndrome was made by Lippman et al. in 1952. Alice in Wonderland syndrome include wrong perceptions of body image, shape of objects, sense of passage of time and illusionary visual perceptions. Illusionary body perceptions induce anxiety and fear, sometimes for many years in early childhood and can influence the normal development of child in the family and their surroundings [1].

AIWS was described in diverse publications in association with many different infectious diseases like malaria, zicavirus, varicella induced optical neuromyelitis, lyme disease, H1N1 influenza infection and mononucleosis. It is obvious, that all these different diseases play no role in finding the real origin of Alice in Wonderland syndrome. Other

entities like complex partial epilepsy, migraine, acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, drug abuse like LSD or montelukast (mast cell stabilisator) are further associated drug correlations relating to AIWS-like seizures. Moreover recent articles describe AIWS seizures after ventriculoatrial shunt operation in hydrocephalus postoperatively and in patients with brain tumor, especially glioblastoma.

Recent publications describe the curious aspect of AIWS seizures chronically correlating with physical abuse [2-4]. In this publications, two elder woman aged 57 and 61 years describing their horrific experience with sexual abuse and chronically relating AIWS seizures after many years [2,3,5]. These case studies shed light on aspects on physical and sexual abuse by describing the entity many years after this curious experience by two elder women analyzing their experience as a child [3]. This sensible and curious descriptions and just descriptions of two elder women from the US and the UK should be underpinned by further cases and research. The topic is very sensible, very curious and should be analyzed with more cases

going to the public with similar experiences in childhood.

The real origin of this curious disease of Alice in Wonderland syndrome is still unknown. Does sexual abuse plays an important role in finding the real origin of the disease?

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