

The Real Origin of Alice in Wonderland Syndrome in Childhood is still Unknown: Does Physical Abuse Play a Major Role?

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Editorial

Lewis Carroll wrote in 1864 the novel of Alice in Wonderland “Alice`s Adventures under Ground” [1]. The British psychiatrist John Todd (1914-1987) described the curious condition of micro-and macrosomatognosia, altered perceptions of body image, and described it as Alice in Wonderland Syndrome. John Todd described it 1955 and gave it the literary name in his publication.

The real origin is still unknown. AIWS was described in association with many different infectious diseases like malaria, zika virus, varicella induced optical neuromyelitis, lyme disease, H1N1 influenza infection and mononucleosis. Other entities like complex partial epilepsy, migraine, and acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, drug abuse like LSD or montelukast are further associated drug correlations relating to AIWS seizures. Moreover recent articles describe postoperative AIWS seizures after ventriculoatrial shunt operation in hydrocephalus and in patients with brain tumor (glioblastoma). Recent publications describe the curious aspect of AIWS seizures chronically correlating with sexual abuse [2-5].

In this publication, two elder women describing their horrific experience with sexual abuse and chronically relating AIWS seizures after many years [2-5].

Disordered 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.

The real origin of this curious disease of Alice in Wonderland syndrome is still unknown. Recent studies shed light on aspects on physical and sexual abuse, which should be underpinned by further cases and research.

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