Abstract:

Mental disorder and criminal activity is always a current topic because of high promotion of offences in the media which enhances its stigmatization. The aim of the work was mapping of patient’s view of his criminal activities. We described criminal proceedings with mentally ill offender and measures of protection. We addressed to chosen aspects of perceiving of criminal activities – motivation, attribution of guilt, self-image and punishment. We described mental disorders in psychiatric protective treatment and their forensic significance. We used the qualitative analysis of semi-structured interview, method called pie of guilt, medical records and forensic expert testimony. The sample consisted of 16 patients of psychiatric protective treatment in Psychiatric hospital Bohnice, Praha, Czech republic. Collected data are various and they account for the heterogenity of research group. The main work result is a support for opinion that not only mental disorder, but also many other factors such as personality, substance abuse or poor impulse control, are responsible for the origin of offence and that patients are conscious of it and they don’t interpret it only within the frame of mental disorder. The work highlights on the using of many ego mechanisms of defense to cope with feelings of guilt and maintain positive self-image of patients. The work results contribute to understanding in what extent patients are able to understand their criminal activities and what influence has the mental disorder on it.

Keywords:

Mental disorder, offense, feelings of guilt, self-image, protective treatment