Abstract

This master thesis focuses on atopic eczema in children and adolescents from a psychological perspective. The aim of this text is to describe and emphasize the psychological aspects of this disease and characterize the areas it may concern and affect. Regarding the structure, the thesis is divided into three parts. The introductory theoretical part is focused on a description of the explored subject-matter, the aim was to submit a comprehensive perspective on this disease and outline a relevant psychological basis for the empirical enquiry. The second empirical part is focused on the intrinsic aspects of the experience of this disease in children and adolescents. The quantitative research was designed to map out the specific phenomena, incidence of depressive symptoms and family upbringing style. The quantitative research is complemented by a qualitative inquiry with the aim to get further into depth of the issue by means of two case studies. These were focused on the overall experience related to the diagnosis of atopic eczema. The final part reflects acquired findings and the conclusive discussion summarizes the results of the exploratory assumptions including the limits and the possibilities of future psychological work with this disease.

Keywords

Atopic eczema, psychosomatic approach, depression, family upbringing style, pruritus