

Abstract

The master thesis copes with gender dysphoria (GD) in persons with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The quantitative research was chosen to study this topic. The main goal was to determine whether people with mild ASD have a higher prevalence of GD or higher rate of GD compared to the general neurotypical population (NT). The main methods used in this research were: Autism Quotient Questionnaire (AQ-10) and the Gender Identity/Gender Dysphoria Questionnaire in Adolescents and Adults (GIDYQ-AA), which made it possible to determine the degree of GD and the potential co-occurrence of a diagnosis of gender incongruence (GI; according to ICD-11).

In the research there were 196 subjects with the age ranging from 16 to 74 years. The ASD group was comprised 90 persons and in the NT group there were 106 people. While in the NT group no one admitted transgender identity, in the ASD group 2.2 % of subjects informed about transgender identity and 14.4 % of the autistic group were not sure about it. Based on the GIDYQ-AA results, 4.4 % of people with ASD had a low score indicating a possible presence of a diagnosis of GD (GI). Furthermore, the research found that women with autism had significantly higher rate of GD than both women in the NT group and men with ASD. Overall, subjects with ASD achieved significantly lower scores in GIDYQ-AA and in all its subscales in comparison with the NT group. Spearman correlation found a negative relationship of AQ-10 and GIDYQ-AA, i.e. the higher score in AQ-10, the lower score in GIDYQ-AA, which indicates a higher rate of GD.

Based on the results of this research it was concluded that autism and the number of autistic traits affect not only sexuality, but also gender identity and gender dysphoria. Future research should focus on understanding this issue more in depth.

Keywords

Gender dysphoria, gender identity, transgender, transsexualism, autism spectrum disorder, autism