

The Defence Style Questionnaire which assesses three factors of defence mechanisms (mature, neurotic, immature) was completed by 44 anorexic women aged from 14 to 30 years, and 121 healthy women. The Thematic Apperception Test used to assess ego development and defence was completed by 15 patients. We found that the anorexic women differ from the healthy population in use of neurotic and immature defence mechanisms. In contrast, no difference was found between restrictive and purgative patients who do not differ in any factor of the Defence Style Questionnaire.