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Título: Research of the mother-child relationship in a severe case of infant apathy, applying DLA

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1. Aim

To infer the wishes and defenses in the mother-son link during the first 3 years and 6 months of life. Diagnosis: state of apathy.

2. Sample

a) The study of the game of a three and a half years old boy; b) the analysis of the boy's different motricities in photographs and videos during and after the absence crisis, c) narrations of episodes corresponding to the early infance and the moment posterior to the critical situation.

2.1. Narrations

Pedro and Amalia (38 years old, Thai) consult about the repeated absences of their son Daniel (3 and a half years old), which begin when the boy is one year and three months old, after a trip they make without him. The mother needed to rest from the boy and that was the reason for the trip.

Before this event Daniel would show an attentive conection with the world in his facial expressions, but at the parents return from the aforementioned trip, he starts avoiding the look or remains with a lost look and his head over a side. The boy has difficulties in falling asleep and also in his motricity, for he gets hit a lot when he walks.

He doesn't cry in these situations. The first absence was brief and in the maternal grandmother's house. When his parents returned from their trip, they would then be increased.

The parents comment that before the absences began, the kid suffered from sob spasms during the first months of life and that he was hospitalized several times for respiratory problems. They also mention that before Daniel was born, the mother lost a pregnancy, and this sometimes caused her a sorrow state.

Amalia was hospitalized several times during the kid's first year of life, for infections. After the absences she claims to have paid a lot of attention to her son because she considered that he needed to rest in order to overcome the absences.

The couple brings a pendrive to the first interview, with photos and videos of the boy from the birth to the present. This material remains in the office for the posterior analysis.

2.2. First session

From the first mother-son linking session, we extracted several scenes that showed the boy's clumsiness and its ending. We chose the scene that expressed with major clarity the relationship between this one and the mother's narrations: Daniel wants to take an object, he drops it and breaks it, he laughs and the mother lifts him while he keeps on laughing until, he falls asleep.

2.3. Images

They are composed by videos and photos that were brought by Daniel's parents in the first interview.

Photo 1 (14-11-2007) This picture is previous to D.'s symptoms. We may perceive a smile with the lips semi opened, which expresses the relief or the pleasure of the satisfaction of the selfpreservation drive, his cheeks reddened together with his eyes closed constructing a painting of basic welfare, the one that the babies have when they receive their food in time and the mother's empathy is joining the food given by her. The face, then, narrates the basic welfare, the mother-child encounter.

Photo 2 (06-2010) D.'s mother holds him in her arms, D. looking at the opposite side of the mother's look, D's eyes remain in that state of perplexity with the mouth

open, in keeping with the eyes. His mother looks at him smiling without encountering his son's look, because this one, as I mentioned, is lookin at the other side.

Video 1 (15-1-2011) D. was two years and eighth months old. We may see D. in a hospital bed, sitting with his food plate and eating alone, with his left hand without any motor difficulty. Over his head there is a sort of hat with electrodes that indicate his brain functioning. We perceive how, slowly, D. begins to loose his head support and starts falling gradually until he totally faints. We see a hand that tries to hold his head but doesn't achieve it. that hand belongs to a non identified women. The video also shows how after a few seconds D. reacts and puts his head back in the normal position. D. lifts his right hand and continues eating alone, going back to the scene previous to conscience loss.

3. Method

3.1. Concepts

Table I: Main Concepts of the DLA

Wishes	Defenses	State
IL	Foreclosure of the affect	Successful
O1 O2 A1	Disavowal	
	Foreclosure of reality and the ideal	Failed
A2 UPH GPH	Repression+characterologic traits	
IL O1 O2 A1	In accordance with the goal	Successful/Failed
A2 UPH GPH	Creativity	
	Sublimation	
	Inhibition	

3.2. Instruments

- 1) Grid for the study of the wishes in the narrations+instructions for the detection of the defense and it's state
- 2) Grid for the study of the wishes in the motricity+instructions for the detection of the defense and it's state

4. Procedure

a) Analysis of the wishes and the defenses and their state in the narrations referred, on one hand, to the mother, and on the other hand, to the child, b) analysis of the wishes and the defenses in a scene displayed by the child and his mother during the session, and that it is related to the narrations, c) analysis of the photographs and the video corresponding to periods preceding the psychological consultation.

5. Analysis

Table II: Drives, defenses and their state in the photos and the videos

	<i>Main drive, defense and state</i>	<i>Complementary drive, defense and state</i>
Photo 1	Intrasomatic libido, in accordance with the goal	
Photo 2	Intrasomatic libido Foreclosure of the affect	
Video 1	Intrasomatic libido Foreclosure of the affect	Secondary anal sadistic, in accordance with the goal

Table III: Analysis of the scenes displayed in the session and the narrations

<i>Scenes displayed</i>	<i>Analysis of the mother's</i>	<i>Analysis of the child's</i>
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<i>during the session</i>	<i>narration</i>	<i>narration</i>
	<p>I. 1. Before Daniel was born, his mother lost a pregnancy</p> <p>2. The sorrow remains until the present</p> <p>O2 disavowal successful/failed</p>	<p>I. 1. In the first months he had several episodes of sob spasms</p> <p>2. He was hospitalized several times</p> <p>IL foreclosure of the affect successful</p>
	<p>II. 1. His mother wanted to have a rest from him</p> <p>2. She went on a trip</p> <p>IL foreclosure of the affect+escape successful</p>	
		<p>II. 1. When the parents went on a trip, Daniel stayed with his grandmother</p> <p>2. When they came back, Daniel wouldn't look at his mother</p> <p>O1 disavowal successful</p>
	<p>III. 1. The mother has difficulties to put the boy to sleep</p> <p>2. She falls asleep before him</p> <p>IL foreclosure of the affect successful</p>	<p>III.1. Daniel has difficulties to fall asleep</p> <p>2. He ends up exhausted</p> <p>IL foreclosure of the affect successful</p>

		<p>IV. 1. Daniel gets hit while walking</p> <p>2. He doesn't cry</p> <p>IL foreclosure of the affect successful-failed</p>
<p>I. 1. The boy wants to grab an object</p> <p>2. He drops it and breaks it</p> <p>3. He remains perplexed</p> <p>O1 disavowal successful-failed</p>		
<p>II.1. The boy brakes an object</p> <p>2.He laughs</p> <p>IL foreclosure of the affect failed</p>		
<p>III. 1. His mother lifts him up</p> <p>2. The boy falls asleep</p> <p>IL foreclosure of the affect successful-failed</p>		

6. Discussion:

In synthesis, narrations: First moment (previous to the first year and three months): O2 and disavowal in the mother, and IL+foreclosure of the affect in the child. Second

moment (when the mother comes back from the journey, from the kid's year and a half): 1) IL+foreclosure of the affect in the mother as much as in the boy, 2) O1+disavowal in the son. Scene displayed in session: 1) O1+disavowal, 2) IL+successful-failed foreclosure of the affect.

Photos and video: First moment (previous to the first year and three months), IL+defense in accordance with the goal; Second moment (from the kid's year and a half): IL+successful-failed foreclosure of the affect.

The maternal withdrawal (pathological sorrow due to the death of the first son) corresponding to the first period of the son's life was accompanied by his sob spasms. The posterior trip of the mother reinforced the previous situation and deepened the child's apathy. The maternal withdrawal in the first period played as predisposing situation and the trip was the precipitant event.