

1191

**EARLY DETECTION OF EATING BEHAVIOR  
DISORDERS IN 300 STUDENTS BETWEEN 13  
AND 17 YEARS OF AGE.**

**J. Moizeszowicz, E. Zaglavzky, G. Sirkin**  
**Department of Mental Health,**

**Buenos Aires Medical School, Argentina.**

Disturbances in eating behavior in adolescent and young adult women have increased in recent years. This type of behavior disorder begins with unspecified symptoms which appear insignificant to parents and educators. 300 female students (15,5 ± 2 years) at a public high school responded to a self-report questionnaire, the Zung Depression Scale (ZDS) and the Anxiety Scale (SAS). The 32 item-questionnaire explored the prevalence of eating behavior disorders, the frequency of anorectic, laxative and addictive drug consumption, etc. The prevalence revealed 47,8% of compulsive eating behavior, 36% of body image distortion, 18,9% of binge eating behaviour due to anxiety, 9,8% of current laxative misuse and 2,1% of self induced vomiting. 5,6% of the girls between 13 and 14 years and 10,3% between 17 and 18, described themselves as thin (in reality the registered weight was 35,2% and 37,9%, respectively, below the average). In contrast 28,3% defined themselves as overweight (yet only 21% were above the mean-weight). These figures show a stark gap between the participants self-perceived image and reality.

**9<sup>o</sup> WORLD CONGRESS  
OF PSYCHIATRY**

**ABSTRACTS**



Rio de Janeiro JUNE 8<sup>o</sup> - 12<sup>o</sup> 1993 - BRAZIL

WORLD PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION MONDIALE DE PSYCHIATRIE  
WELTVERBAND FÜR PSYCHIATRIE  
ASSOCIACIÓ MUNDIAL DE PSIQÜIATRIA