

Special Issue

Childhood Eating and Feeding Disturbances

Message from the Guest Editor

Eating and feeding disturbances in childhood are understudied health conditions. They are characterized, to varying degrees, by aberrant eating behaviors, associated cognitive and emotional dysfunctions, and dysregulated body weight, and are accompanied by significant physical and psychosocial comorbidities. Anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder represent the specific eating disorders in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition (DSM-5). These disorders may show an early onset, mostly in adolescence. Further feeding or eating disorders have been newly defined in or shifted to the DSM-5 Feeding and Eating Disorders section, including avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder, pica, and rumination disorder. In addition, more forms of non-normative eating behaviors with potential clinical significance in childhood have been investigated, for example, loss of control eating. In general, there is a lack of clinical research on these feeding and eating disturbances, so that their presentation, development, treatment, and prevention in childhood remain largely unclear.

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