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Both patients showed a relevant increase in PS along the duration of the therapies, confirming the co-construction of interpersonal patterns described by the dyad system model. The PACS coding revealed peculiar dyadic PS for specific attachment-related categories. Our results represent a further step in the direction of understanding the association of PS and clinical process. Moreover highlighting the crucial relationship between PS and adult attachment, a dimension often neglected in recent literature.

SEMANTIC PATTERN FORMATION AND TREATMENT OUTCOME: SELF AND MUTUAL REGULATION WITHIN THE THERAPEUTIC DIALOGUE PREDICTS TREATMENT OUTCOME

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According to a dynamic systems (DS) approach, therapeutic communication is a dynamic dyadic system comprised by two subsystems – client (C) and therapist (T) – which steadily changes over time. This change is characterized by self-organization, mediated by pattern formation and resulting from an increasing synchronization between the communicative signs of C and T. Pattern formation taking place at an intra-individual level (within C and T) is responsible for the communicative self-regulation of respectively the C and the T, while pattern formation at an inter-individual level is responsible for the communicative mutual regulation between them. Between self and mutual regulation, a circular causality exists. In the present paper, we focus on the semantic level of client-therapist communication. We expect that semantic pattern formation (SPF) both at an intra-individual and inter-individual level will be associated with positive

treatment outcome. The sample was comprised by respectively six good and six poor outcome cases of experiential therapy for depression. C and T semantic speech was assessed by means of the Therapeutic Cycle Model within session transcripts. SPF both at an intra-individual and inter-individual level was operationalized by a measure of order from information theory. Treatment outcome was assessed by means of Beck Depression Inventory. Data analysis took place by means of individual growth modeling. Results showed that, coherently with our hypothesis, both SPF of T and SPF of the dyad increased for good outcome cases while it decreased for poor outcome cases. Contrary to our hypothesis, SPF of C increased for both good and poor outcome cases. These results suggest that the process of self and mutual regulation governing self-organization at the level of the semantic communication between C and T play a relevant role in mediating the clinical outcome of a treatment. Future studies should more extensively deepen the role of C self-regulation.

THE THERAPEUTIC PROCESS IN A PSYCHOANALYTIC GROUP THERAPY. A CONTINUOUS AND RECIPROCAL NEGOTIATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP

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