

## POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS: REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH HISTORY, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA AND ETIOLOGICAL FACTORS

*Miodrag Stanković<sup>1,2</sup>, Ivana Dimov<sup>3</sup>, Aleksandra Stojanović<sup>1</sup>,  
Jelena Stevanović<sup>4</sup>, Jelena Kostić<sup>1</sup>, Ninoslava Mitić<sup>1</sup>*

Clinic for Mental Health Protection, Clinical Centre Niš, Niš, Serbia<sup>1</sup>  
University of Niš, Faculty of Medicine, Niš, Serbia<sup>2</sup>  
Clinic „Panacea“, Niš, Niš, Serbia<sup>3</sup>  
General Hospital, Leskovac, Serbia<sup>4</sup>

Contact: Miodrag Stanković  
Clinic for Mental Health Protection  
Zorana Đindica 48, 18000 Niš, Serbia  
E-mail: adolescencija@gmail.com

Children and adolescents present a vulnerable group for developing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after stressful and traumatic events. However, it is evident that the traumatic event is important but insufficient factor for PTSD development in trauma exposure in identical circumstances, and that there are other, indirect factors important for the occurrence and maintenance of the disorder in children and adolescents. It is a complex interplay of external events and inner psychological and physiological reactivity, vulnerability and resilience, and external psychosocial support. Statistics confirms that the prevalence is significantly higher in the circumstances of war and conflicts, where children and adolescents are the direct victims or witnesses to the violence. Risk factors for PTSD, as well as pathogenesis are widely understood, but it is still unclear what are the key differences that lead to this disorder in some people, and not in everyone in the same traumatic circumstances. *Acta Medica Medianae 2017;56(2):57-63.*

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