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Abstracts

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were surveyed online using clinical instruments and open-ended questions in a research project. Interview analysis resulted in a code system and for this study MAXQDA was employed to analyze the question: Please describe the reasons why you are active on zoophilia forums

Results: The analysis focused on ten key categories deemed relevant by the participants: Community, Porn and Erotic Content, Seeking Information, Sharing Information and Activism, Mental Health, Acceptance and Normalization, Emotional Support, Morals and Ethics, Curiosity, Self-Experience, Guidance.

Limitations: Examining hidden populations reduces the representativeness of the data.

Implications: Overall, forums serve as a safe space to connect, learn and find validation. Findings are consistent with prior research about the characteristics of Zoophilia [2] as they underline the relevant group of zoophiles who do not exclusively focus on sexual aspects as they prioritize forming meaningful relationships with animals, seeking advice on animal care and wellbeing (Category Guidance) or even moral and ethical aspects (Category Morals and Ethics). This might be a further component in trying to understand the complexity of zoophilia.

Paper number 953 | Oral

Exploring factors of early withdrawal from online psychological counselling: study protocol and early findings

Alfredas Laurinavičius¹, Jonas Eimontas¹, Neringa Grigutytė¹, Paulina Paškevičiūtė¹, Vaida Stankutė^{1,2}

¹Vilnius University, Lithuania

²Online counselling platform "Pasikalbėk", Lithuania

This study aims to examine the factors associated with early withdrawal from online psychological counselling, such as personality traits, therapeutic alliance, belief in the efficacy of the therapy, psychological difficulties, and sociodemographic factors.

Online psychological counselling has become particularly relevant in recent years, especially due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the advantages of distance counselling, the qualitative differences between online and face-to-face counselling are still debated. One of the concerns of psychologists is the early withdrawal from online counselling.

A repeated measures design is applied in the study. 200 clients of the online counselling platform and their therapists are expected to participate in the study. Participants agree to regularly fill out questionnaires for up to 10 sessions. Measures include The Big Five Inventory – 2 (Soto & John, 2017), the Working Alliance Inventory (Hatcher & Gillaspay, 2006), the Milwaukee Psychotherapy Expectations Questionnaire-Brief (Normberg et al., 2011) and Therapist Hope for Clients Scale (Bartholomew et al., 2020), Depression Anxiety Stress Scales-21 (Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995), sociodemographic information.

Data collection is ongoing. Initial analyses based on the data already collected confirm the importance of the factors investigated, such as working alliance and belief in therapy, in predicting early withdrawal from online therapy.

The main limitation of the study is the convenience of the sample. Our study is limited to clients who consent to participate in the study, therefore they can differ from other clients in many unknown factors.

As the study examines early withdrawal from online therapy, the findings are of practical relevance for online psychological service providers. The results will contribute to further research on the determinants of withdrawal, including the theoretical orientation of the psychologist, experience and psychological difficulties.

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