

Pathological organisations and psychic encapsulation in eating disorders: A contemporary consideration

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Abstract

Using case material from three patients this paper offers a particular thesis on anorexia - an integration of different ideational strands which the author has presented on previously. This particular psychoanalytic conceptualisation is presented with clinical utility as its aim. The paper's main arguments are advanced in two parts. The first part of the paper argues for a synthesis of three bodies of psychoanalytic theory to facilitate a theoretical exploration into certain intrapsychic mechanisms. In the second, the proffered theoretical framework is extended to facilitate a consideration of the role of contemporary socio-cultural trends within the anorexic symptom complex.