ABSTRACT

Study of color projection in the Rorschach test

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Preceding studies have indicated that color projection (CP) in the Rorschach test is a mechanism of denying unpleasant emotions. However, this hypothesis has not been supported empirically. We analyzed CP in the protocols of 17 psychiatric patients and reexamined the above hypothesis. Results indicated that 70% of CP was in response to I, or VI cards. Therefore, it was assumed that CP was an initial reaction to achromatic colors and shading. Moreover, the colors projected were mainly brown and red, which were respectively chosen as a disagreeable, or a favorite color. Furthermore, whereas CP was seen with affirmative emotional representations, it was also seen with MOR. There were also missmatches between the projection of the color and the content of the responses in 10% of the cases. These results suggest that in certain cases, CP does not indicate a denial of unpleasant emotions, but a failure of cognitive integration.

Key Words: color projection (CP), Rorschach test, emotions