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## ABSTRACT

Multiple norms in a comparison between the concepts of “schizophrenia” and “autism spectrum disorder”

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In the field of clinical psychology clients often ask for the name of their illness. In such situations the content of dialogue is an important issue. This study focuses on the thoughts concerning psychological assessment and the names of illnesses. In a comparison between the concepts of “disease” and “syndrome,” we discuss problems associated with the ambiguity of clinical definitions called “multiple norms of disease concept.” As specific examples, “schizophrenia” and “autism spectrum disorder,” which have long histories of conceptualization and various definitions, are used as comparative subjects. The question of “what is being compared?” during the comparison was divided into four patterns. For each pattern, the logical structure and clinical problem were examined. It was observed that the language used by the client did not necessarily match that used by the therapist. Nevertheless, for any idea, the awareness of the following issues is useful in clinical practice: how does one present the concepts of both client and therapist, what are its historical characteristics, and what is being compared here?

**Key Words:** schizophrenia, autism spectrum disorder, disease, syndrome, DSM-5

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