

# Comorbidity: early childhood regulation problems and other health conditions



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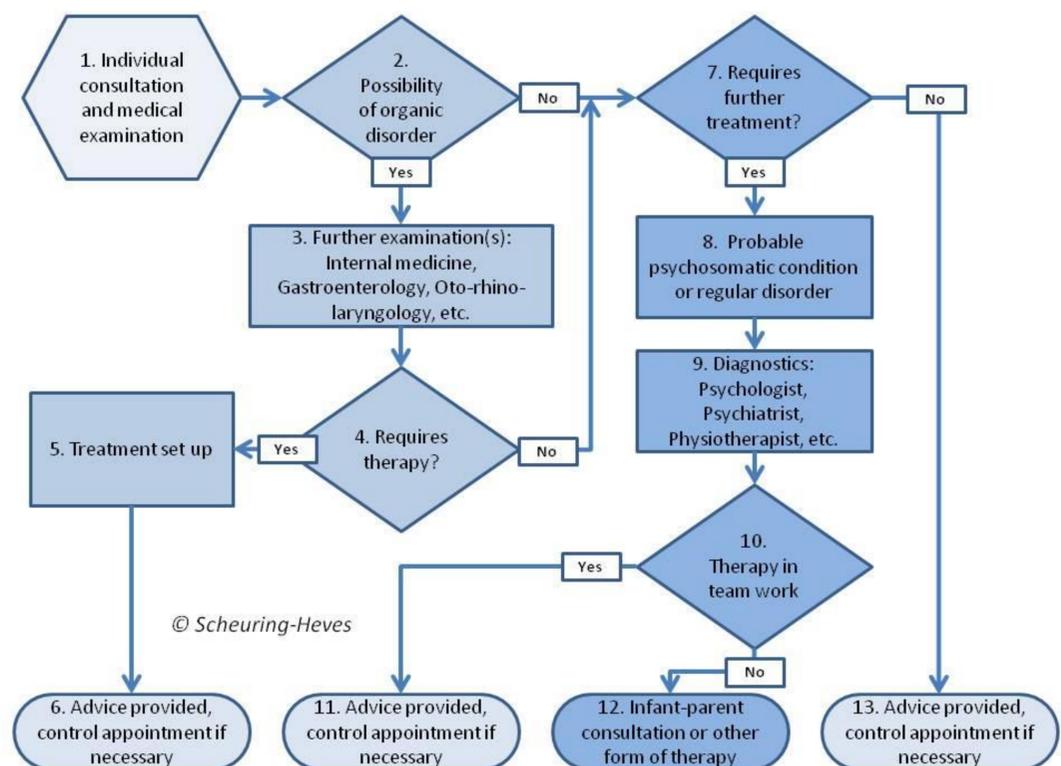
**Introduction:** Due to intensive research of behaviour regulation disorders in early childhood, a lot has been learnt about the etiology and subsequent developmental psychopathology, but there is still limited data about comorbidity.

## Aims of the study:

- According to everyday experiences, childhood illnesses correlate with disturbed crying, sleeping and eating behaviour. Differential diagnostic process is important in separating acute secondary symptoms from comorbid chronic behaviour regulation disorders.
- We investigated the relationship between regulation problems and other health conditions in medical records.

## Materials and methods:

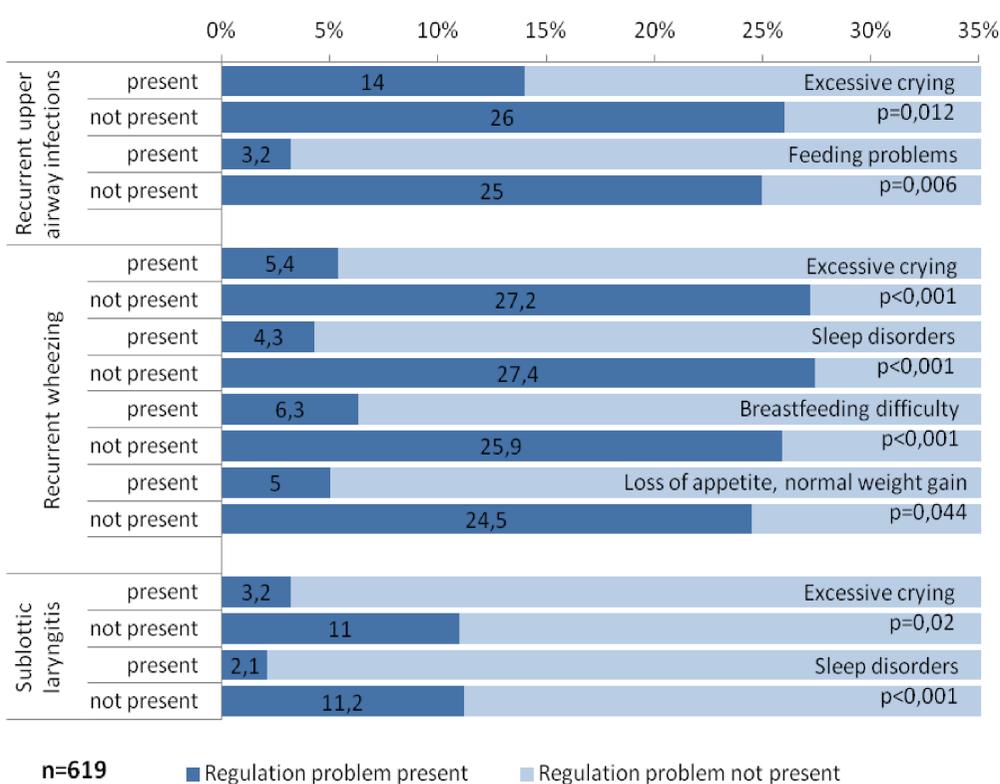
- "For Healthy Offspring" project: the first Hungarian research examining the prevalence of behaviour regulation problems in early childhood
- Families with 0-3-year-old children were included.
- 1164 parents completed the questionnaires
- Medical diagnoses (n=619) were based on detailed patient history, physical examination, follow-up and further specific examinations, if necessary.
- Behaviour regulation difficulties were diagnosed according to available international diagnostic criteria by infant-parent consultants.



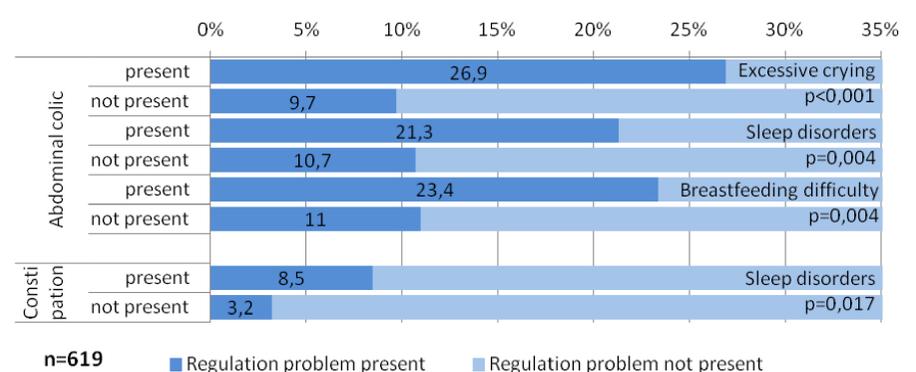
## Results:

- The occurrence of regulation problems was significantly lower in children with respiratory conditions, than in children without these organic conditions.
- Where one type of behaviour regulation problem was present, another type of regulation difficulty was more frequently diagnosed.
- The occurrence of abdominal colic and constipation, symptoms that are often found to have psychosomatic background, also showed correlation with the occurrence of other regulation problems.

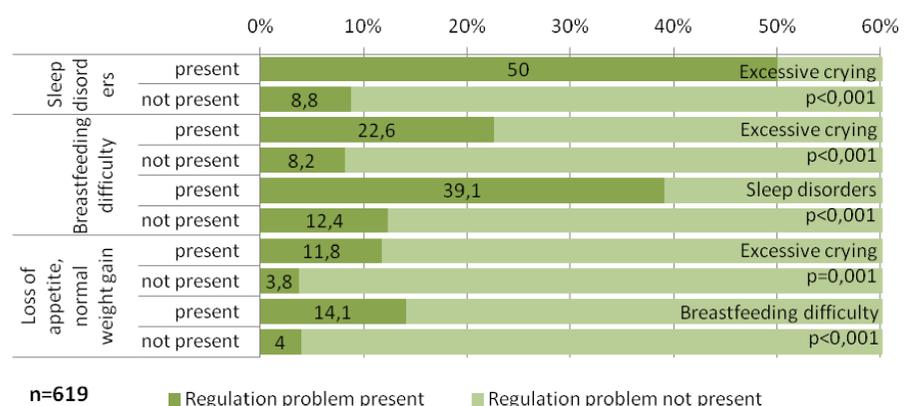
### Comorbidity between early childhood regulation problems and respiratory conditions



### Comorbidity between early childhood regulation problems and gastrointestinal symptoms



### Comorbidity between different early childhood regulation problems



## Conclusions:

Deeper knowledge of the relation between organic and non-organic effects behind common pediatric symptoms, and official foundation of using well-known systems for diagnosing behaviour regulation disorders can valuably contribute to the differential diagnostic assessment in paediatric care.