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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF THE ADULT PEOPLE WITH EPILEPSY IN THE PROCESS OF MUSIC THERAPY

Epilepsy is associated not only with the direct effect of seizures on patients and on their relatives. To perceive the overall extent of outcomes it is crucial to note multiple interrelated medical, psychological, social and economic issues. Fear, the inadequate conception of the disorder creating social stigma and discrimination often push people with epilepsy to the "shadow". Therefore, the emphasis is on the importance of patients' complex health care, where next to pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical treatment an important role is played by rehabilitation / social rehabilitation seeking better integration and improved psychosocial functioning of patients with epilepsy (Anonymous, 2005). Research over the last decade has shown that social isolation of people with epilepsy is an issue of global importance (Anonymous 2005, Baumann et al. 2007). This issue has not been overcome in Lithuania as well (Murauskaitė 2008).

In the research, that is going to be presented in the conference, an issue of social isolation / social exclusion is analyzed in a relation to concept of *social participation* (Ruškus et al. 2007; Stige 2006, 2010). The assumption is made that the application of music therapy focused on the development of social participation and on education of people with epilepsy will have a positive impact on their social isolation / social exclusion. That is, will empower people with epilepsy to express their resources, to suspend their weaknesses, to become active participants in social situations and agents initiating positive changes in their personal as well as social life. The theoretical framework of the assumption presented is relational and culture centered theoretical perspective where the notion of participation is explained as social and collaborative action.

Few theoretical aspects of the research are going to be discussed in the presentation:

- a) the place of the research in the context of music therapy and epilepsy scientific studies;
- b) *social participation* in epilepsy;
- c) the concept of *participation* in the music therapy literature and practice.

Presented statements:

1. Up to now, scholars paid rather little attention to research of the application of music therapy in the psychosocial rehabilitation of people with epilepsy. The topic of the study discussed in the presentation (not excepting epilepsy) is allied to the diverse area of music therapy tradition that is known as community music therapy.
2. In epilepsy's case, the issue of social isolation is defined by disordered psychosocial functioning of people with epilepsy the causes of which lies in interpersonal and intrapersonal level of human existence. The development of social participation needs to be focused on the promotion of patients' agency on one hand and on the promotion the openness in the socium on the other.
3. There are two basic notions of participation in music therapy literature – participation as individual activity and participation as collaborative activity. The latter one is of crucial

importance in the context of the research presented. The notion of participation as collaborative activity is found in the community music therapy literature.

References:

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