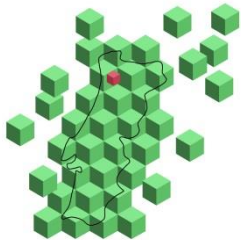


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PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS



648. Prevalence and correlates of picky eating in early childhood

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Picky eating is a common problem during childhood and reflects eating and feeding problems. Picky eating is associated with behavioral problems, parental stress, anxiety and psychosocial problems and in some cases with a higher risk of anorexia nervosa. In this study 959 children aged between 18 and 60 months ($M= 43.5$; $SD =12.91$) were evaluated by their parents and teachers. Almost 55% of children were boys ($n=524$) and most (53%) came from medium high income to high income. Picky eating was operationalized by two items of the CBCL (1.5-5 years). Mothers were asked to indicate whether their child “does not eat well” and “refuses to eat”. Prevalence of picky eating was 25.1 (95%CI 22.4-27.8%). No associations were found between genders and type of partum. The comparison of picky eating group and non-picky eating

group indicated that data on picky eating were more common in older children, and children from lower income. Regarding emotional and behavioral problems, we found significant differences between picky eaters and non-picky eaters. Univariate tests showed that picky eaters scored higher on all emotional and behavioral problems measured by CBCL. Accordingly picky eaters also score higher on total problems, internalizing and externalizing scales, and other problems compared to non-picky eaters. No differences between groups were found with regard to the emotional and behavioral problems, internalizing and externalizing scores, and total problems according to teacher's report. The regression analysis indicated that children with somatic complaints and attention problems were more likely to be picky eaters.