

IATROGENIC HYPOXIA-RELATED EROTIC FANTASIES AS IMPORTANT FACTOR CAUSING PROBLEMS IN SOLVING SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

J. Trnka¹, J. Drobniak^{2,4} and R. Susło^{1,3}

¹Department of Forensic Medicine, Wrocław Medical University, 4 Mikulicz-Radecki St., 50-345 Wrocław, Poland, jtrnka@aol.pl

²Department of Family Medicine, Wrocław Medical University, 1 Syrokomla St., 141 Wrocław, Poland

³Public Health Department, Wrocław University Hospital, 213 Borowska St., 50-556 Wrocław, Poland

⁴Department of Gynecology, Opole State Medical Profession High School, 68 Katowicka St., 45-060 Opole, Poland

Blood gases levels imbalances belong to important factors triggering central nervous system (CNS) functional disturbances. Hypoxia can be illness-related, like in many family-medicine COPD patients, or it may be caused by broad range of external or iatrogenic factors - including influence of drugs depressing respiration, failure to keep patient's prosthesis-supported airways patent or mistake in operating medical equipment supporting patient's respiration. Hypoxia, especially when it is not accompanied by rapid carbon dioxide retention, can go unnoticed for prolonged times, deepening existing CNS disorders, sometimes rapidly triggering their manifestation, or evoking quite new conditions and symptoms - like anxiety, agitation, aggressive behavior, euphoria or hallucinations. Those in turn result often in situations raising interest in law enforcement institutions that need forensic medicine specialist assistance and opinion. The illness- or drugs-related hypoxia possibility, especially in terminal patients, is being used to raise questions about those patients' ability to properly express their will, especially last will, in the way demanded by law - it also must be considered as factor limiting their responsibility, in case they commit crimes. Possibility of hallucinations in hypoxia patients limits their credibility as witnesses or even their ability to report crime or sexual abuse they have been subjected to.