



## EDITORIAL

# The Clue to the Unknown Origin of Alice in Wonderland in Children?

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### Editorial

In the early months of 2018, 2 emails reached my person from two older women from Alabama, USA and from the United Kingdom. Both described independently their horrific experiences with sexual abuse in early years of life and chronological relation to Alice in Wonderland-like seizures. I was very surprised about that and published these curious impressions in different journals in the US. Both women described similar experiences with sexual abuse standing in clear chronological relation to AIWS-like seizures. In the last years, many publications were published relating AIWS with drug abuse, infections (Malaria, EBV etc.), operations and other curious but rare conditions. *The real origin is still not known.*

Alice in Wonderland Syndrome (AIWS) is named after a novel that was written by Lewis Carroll. The condition was first illustrated in 1955 by John Todd, a psychiatrist. Todd named it, for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll. Lewis Carroll suffered from severe migraine and the disorder as well. Alice in Wonderland Syndrome is a disorienting condition that

affects one's perception. AIWS is a neurological disorder that disturbs signals that are sent from the eyes to the brain, thereby causing a subsequent distortion in perception.

The patients complain of visual, auditory and tactile hallucinations and altered perceptions. Alice in Wonderland Syndrome in childhood is very rare and can be baffling and terrifying for the patient; for he feels he is going mad in a weird world with warped perceptions and hallucinations. Sexual abuse as a cause for AIWS is still not published and mentioned in literature. Children could reveal constant fear, visual and olfactorial hallucinations in cases of sexual abuse, realize the size of the surrounding "world" in a different way, possibly want to hide away in this serious situation and realize the conditions as too big or small and develop psychotic hallucinations.

The personal experience of the older patients (57y/61y) from Alabama/USA and the United Kingdom reveal a new possible but curious aspect in finding the origin of Alice in Wonderland syndrome. Does sexual abuse in children play a causative role in AIWS?

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