

WINGS of FREEDOM The transformational process from an encapsulated biological soma to a libidinal body – a psychosomatic approach

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Abstract Content (EN)

A young adult male patient will be presented who sought psychoanalytic treatment after developing cancer and subsequently inflammatory bowel disease during his adolescence. The prevailing mode of sensory-motricity in his functioning, along with manifestations of self-calming behaviors, pathological autoeroticism, and self-destructive acts, indicates the presence of primary trauma in the early mother-infant relationship. The splitting of psychosomatic unity and the entrapment of the libidinally disinvested body within a stifling shell significantly affected his daily life, characterized by narcissistic withdrawal and emotional suffocation. Throughout the challenging transference-countertransference relationship, certain transformations occurred, evident in the partial mitigation of intense splitting defenses, a libidinal re-investment enriching his erotogenic body, cautious movements towards the object and a progressive achievement of becoming a subject. A turning point in therapy, marking the "wings of freedom," occurred during a session in the third year of treatment, a fragment of which will be presented. A discussion from a psychosomatic perspective will follow.