

Buchheim, A., Ziegenhain, U., Peter, A., von Wietersheim, H., Vicari, A., Kolb, A., & Schulze, U. (2007). Unverarbeitete Verlusterfahrungen und Angststörungen: Eine transgenerationale Pilotstudie bei Müttern und deren Kindern. (Unresolved experiences of loss and anxiety disorders: A trans-generational pilot study with mothers and their children.) *Nervenheilkunde: Zeitschrift für interdisziplinäre Fortbildung (Neurology: Journal of Interdisciplinary Training)*, 26, 1130-1135.

**Author Abstract:**

Aim of the study was to examine for the first time in Germany the trans-generational relationship between maternal anxiety disorders and the psychopathological development of their children in the context of attachment. In order to identify attachment related risk factors mothers and children were both examined using established attachment measures. According to our hypothesis a high percentage of the mothers with an anxiety disorder were classified with an insecure attachment representation, especially with a predominance of the category "unresolved loss." Children of these mothers also showed a high percentage of insecure attachment patterns, but a lower percentage of disorganized attachment than expected. The psychiatric examination of the children revealed an evidence of increased psychosocial stress and an impairment of psychosocial functioning, though not reaching the severity of a psychiatric diagnosis. These results are discussed with respect to the chance of interdisciplinary cooperation. The importance of timely preventive intervention for this patient group, which is still not systematically implemented in health care provision, is emphasized.