

# S.O.S

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Lien vers l'article original français paru dans sixfours.net :

<http://www.six-fours.net/actualite/six-fours-autisme-halte-au-packing-consistant-a-envelopper-les-enfants-dans-un-linge-3221.html>

Traduction américaine de Miriam SARBAC présidente de l'association Asperger Amitié

Today, the French medical community is not in harmony. The association Autisme PACA denounces certain practices such as returning the Packing method up to date. The association informs parents and is in a bad need of support in its fight. It will hold its Day for Autism on April 2 in Sanary.

On Six-Fours, Jean-Marc Bonifay wants to warn about the practice of packing. The packing is to wrap a person's naked body with cloths soaked in cold water. Skin at 36 degrees, feels a cold shock.

The Association Autisme PACA is currently on all fronts and does not make only friends, especially among some health professionals who continue to treat autism as a psychosis, a consequence of the French psychoanalytic tradition despite opposite position of the World Health Organization that specifies that it is a neurodevelopmental disorder. Clearly there is no cure for autism: "Right now we're fighting everywhere where many charlatans have established corners" says the president of Jean-Marc APACA Bonifay. The association has received some evidence on a psychotherapist in Aix-en-Provence who claims to cure children with autism. The association is a bit helpless and it's a little David against Goliath: "One should know that autistic children have a minimum follow-up with a child psychiatrist who gives notice and we may be condemned for lack of care through a simple alert even if our children are followed by the city doctors. " Because it requires a specialized referent physician. It is the same for the diagnosis as neuropsychologists and speech therapists both together can know if a child is autistic. But in France, you need a valid child psychiatrist who diagnosed for account of the county administration in charge of disability, and social services may be seized, "then one depends on the same people, most of the time psychoanalytically oriented.

Understand that parents are stuck, because the advocates of psychoanalysis are in favor of day hospitals and the majority do not recognize alternative methods of care such as ABA / VB or TEACCH.

Autisme PACA headquartered in Six-Fours but its scope is very broad, and not a day without its chairman receives evidence of distress.

There is a real pressure on parents, who unfortunately cannot denounce it. Proof is that parents and associations have requested the former health minister Philippe Douste-Blazy an INSERM (national

medical research institute) report on the "Evaluation of the effectiveness of psychotherapy". For this report there were eight independent experts representing the various trends in psychotherapy. Now this report unfavorable to the corporation was simply and easily removed from the Department website in 2005, generating strong reactions. In addition the financial issue should also be taken in account, and if Jean-Marc Bonifay or others who speak on the subject, feel indirect pressure, it is not without reason: "When parents or associations choose private cares to have appropriate cares and to avoid internment in psychiatric, their children are stigmatized because it distracts them from day hospitals that cost -let's recall it- € 45 000 to 65 000 € per child, and if there are many children they are happy and they can obtain financing in order to expand or open new care facilities. On top of that they lose their dogma, so of course it is frowned upon ... But if all parents had € 1,200 / month for care, the economy would be enormous, children happier and better care and happier families. "

### Packing revival

The psychoanalytic interpretation of autism is based on the idea that symptoms of autism is an extreme defense of the child against a cold parent who refuses him: the child, terrified by the behavior of his mother , looks in his "autistic shell" to protect themselves from a dangerous and hostile world. And pundits like Peter Delion, psychiatrist, psychoanalyst, head of child and adolescent service at Lille or Bernard Golse continue to defend and promote packing: "Right now it's a very worrying step backwards" said one bit disappointed Jean-Marc Bonifay. This therapy involves wrapping the patient (wearing only underwear or naked in the case of young children) several times a week for months in towels soaked cold (10 ° C to 15 ° C). The individual was before wrapped in blankets to help the body to warm up for 45 minutes, during which time the child or young person is accompanied by two to four staff members. These practices imported in the 60 from United States are condemned today by all countries yet France is pursuing this path even with the endorsement of the High Council of Public Health, which validates the development of a protocol for practice and further study currently being conducted at the University Hospital of Lille to evaluate its benefits and risks.

Some professionals support parents and associations , such as teacher and researcher Bernadette Roge (University Toulouse le Mirail), who expresses her position on the site of her association CERESA: "This practice is based largely on psychoanalytic concepts that have proved wrong in autism . It should be recalled that in 1996 the National Ethics Committee released a report stating that there was no scientific evidence for the psychoanalytic model of autism and no evidence of the effectiveness of therapies in this model ... At the ethical level, it seems difficult to apply a method that is not validated, doesn't rely on any scientific understanding of autism and has a dimension that is aversive imposed on a vulnerable person unable to speak " .

### Many associations outraged by the packing

Jean-Marc Bonifay said: "Today, we are worried because recently, while associations believed France would finally catch up in the monitoring of autism, there is nothing. We are witnessing a return back: symbolized by the entrenchment of a pseudo-mediaeval practice ie packing, an abuse drama for a country supposedly in favor of freedom, with an analytic branch which claims a continuation of the great philosophers. Fortunately these ones do not see what was done with their currents of thoughts. "

Chairman of APACS is angry but he is not alone. He continued: "We see again flourishing in psychiatric professionals who have earned their diplomas following this register and who keep a dim view of the 2002 law allowing families to choose other ways. But now to avoid being accused of neglect and to escape confinement in psychiatric hospital, it is necessary for our children (while autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder I recall, not psychiatric), to have a referent specialist, so a psychiatrist .... France is marginalized and is pointed to in the world and international autism experts condemn what is happening in France and do not understand why our beautiful country becomes the latest in the world for taking autism in charge. "

But it is not a substantive debate for or against psychoanalysis: "I'm just saying one thing, psychoanalysis is simply not suitable for treating children with autism and I want methods who have proven themselves to be recognized . "

Autisme PACA at parents' disposal

The six-fournaise association makes available on its website numerous documents and the most alarming evidence that packing is coming back, is a letter addressed to the Lille University Hospital executives, where it is notified that it will be possible to include children starting from three years old due to the elimination of Risperidone as compulsory maintenance treatment ". The association is definitely more than in need for support and offers the public numerous documents. It will hold "The day for Autism" all day on April 2 in Marie Mauron conference room in Sanary for parents or teachers or medical professionals. Please note that, as announced on her public notice, Seignan Sandra, a neuropsychologist, won't be present as she canceled, but she will be replaced.

Merci à ceux qui diffuseront ce SOS cet appel au secours au-delà des frontières !