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Abstract

Introduction

In the last 12 months or so, numerous articles have been found in the literature concerning issues related to distress and postural disorders in young adults and adolescents.

The phenomenon cannot be overlooked, given the age range of the subjects involved.

The aim of this work is to find evidence of studies in the literature on the subject and, if necessary, to promote their implementation.

Methods

Specific search strings were built. A structured database such as PubMed and a search engine in grey literature, such as Google Scholar, were used.

Results

The results obtained highlight a lack of studies in the fight against distress and postural disorders in young adults and adolescents, despite having tools such as postural analysis and fascial treatments, recognized for their effectiveness in the respective sectors of diagnosis and therapy.

Conclusions

Even within the limits of the research conducted, a lack at the application level of tools recognized as effective in combating the highlighted problem, seems to be realistically present, documented by the absence of specific studies on the subject, of which the construction is therefore sensitized, to obtain useful results for the new generations.

Keywords: relaxation; fascia; shiatsu; posture; acupressure

Introduction

The Literature of the last 12 months, approximately, documents the presence of a non-negligible number of articles reporting problems related to distress in the range of age including adolescents and young adults [1-26] (articles extracted for example from the 1730 obtained with the search string "A" reported in the bibliography [27], using the PubMed MeSH terms). Also documented, in the same period and for the same range of age, is an equally non-negligible number of articles reporting postural disorders [28-55] (articles extracted for example from the 56 obtained with the search string "B" reported in the bibliography [56], using the PubMed MeSH terms).

If this second finding may reasonably not arouse particular interest since the two aspects are linked to each other, as described by several authors [57-64], undoubtedly the phenomenon that emerges from the union of the two aspects documented by the results of the double research, may arouse justified perplexity and should not be ignored.

The search for a strategy to face it is therefore fundamental and urgent, considering, also from a prevention perspective, the range of age involved, representing our future.

It is necessary, consequently, to find tools that highlight it early and that can efficiently face both the distress aspect and the postural aspect. In order to succeed in this intent, it is basic to find a common denominator for the two aspects involved and the most logical choice naturally falls on the fascia, whose structure, properties and functions have been widely described starting from the works of Langevin, Dorsher and Stecco C. [65-68] and since the fascia itself is involved both in the aspects related to distress and in those related to posture, as reported in the articles of various authors [69-78].

What has been previously exposed allows us to identify more easily in postural analysis, an investigation tool capable of highlighting early disharmonies in the subject's posture, in accordance with is supported in various articles [79-88]. At the same time, it allows us to identify Acupressure as a tool that can have significant efficacy in the treatment of both distress-related and postural aspects, in accordance with reported by numerous authors regarding its literature supports [89-92], regarding its use in facing distress [93-103] and regarding its use in facing postural disorders [104-116]. It is important to underline that the concepts expressed in Acupressure can also be found in the different types of existing fascial treatments, as they share the target of action, although with different methods, as can be seen from many articles present in the literature on the subject [117-139], (articles extracted for example from those obtained with the search string "C" reported in the bibliography [140], using the MeSH terms of PubMed).

This premise has necessarily been long and detailed, in order to more clearly explain the purpose of this article, aimed precisely at investigating whether there are already articles in the literature that document the use of postural analysis and fascial treatments, in their broadest sense, in order to contribute to the solution of problems related to distress and posture in adolescents and young adults, as they constitute the potential of the future of our species, a potential that must be supported and preserved.

A second purpose of this work, but not in importance, is to encourage the construction of studies on the subject, should the research carried out highlight their lack or absence.

Methods

The database on which to carry out the research was chosen in PubMed, as it is broad-spectrum and widely used globally.

To build the search strings, suitable for investigating the aim of this work, we started from the search string "A" and the search string "B" already mentioned above, integrating them with specific discriminants, suitable for focusing the research itself on the particular aspects identified in the purpose of this work, namely the application of postural analysis, acupressure and fascial treatments, within the declared topics: distress and postural disorders among young adults and adolescents.

As regards postural analysis, there is no specific MeSH term in PubMed, but the binomial "posture analysis" is recognized, used consequently as a replacement and employed in the form in quotation marks to make the search more selective. In order to

obtain a more complete search, a second re-search string was constructed, using the binomial "postural analysis", equally recognized, instead of the previous "posture analysis", using it, also in this case, in the form in quotation marks for the reasons already explained.

The term "acupressure", however, is included in the MeSH descriptors of PubMed and was therefore used directly.

Also for the term "fascial treatment" there is no specific descriptor in the MeSH terms. Therefore, the same strategy already adopted for "posture analysis" was used, since "fascial treatment" is also recognized as a binomial and, similarly to the case already exposed, the form in quotation marks was used for a more targeted search. Also in this case, in analogy with what was indicated previously, the search was completed by creating a second string with a further definition, using another equivalent recognized binomial, such as "fascial manipulation", always in the form in quotation marks for the same reasons already explained.

The five descriptors thus constructed are summarized in Table 1.

"posture analysis"
"postural analysis"
acupressure
"fascial treatment"
"fascial manipultion"

Table 1

At this point, the initial search strings "A" and "B" were combined with the descriptors in Table 1, obtaining the search strings reported in Table 2 (for "stress" topic) and in Table 3 (for "postural disorder" topic), to which identification acronyms were associated for a more practical and simple reference.

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L-Pa-S	("posture analysis") Psychological"[Mesh]) AND OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		
L-Pb-S	("postural analysis") Psychological"[Mesh]) AND OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		
L-A-S	("Acupressure"[Mesh]) Psychological"[Mesh]) AND OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		
L-Fa-S	("fascial treatment") Psychological"[Mesh]) AND OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		
L-Fb-S	("fascial manipulation") Psychological"[Mesh]) AND OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		

Table 2

L-Pa-PD	("posture analysis") AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND ("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))
L-Pb-PD	("postural analysis") AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND ("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))
L-A-PD	("Acupressure"[Mesh]) AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND ("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))
L-Fa-PD	("fascial treatment") AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND ("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))
L-Fb-PD	("fascial manipulation") AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND ("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))

Table 3

The searches described by the queries in Table 2 and Table 3 were performed on December 15, 2024.

In order to have results able to represent as complete panorama of the literature as possible regarding the purpose of this work, it was decided to also investigate the gray literature, even though, by definition, it represents a less known and uncertified source. This essentially posed a fundamental problem in the coding of the searches, no longer executable with the methodology used by consulting a structured and recognized database such as PubMed. In order to solve this problem and to be able to structure the search efficiently, it was decided to preliminarily build structured queries similar to the more complex ones implemented on PubMed. However, the reference database was naturally changed, for which it was decided to use Google Scholar, given its notoriety and global diffusion.

The summary of the search strings used is reported in Table 4 (for "stress" topic) and in Table 5 (for "postural disorder" topic), with their respective identification acronyms introduced for the reason previously described.

GL-Pa-S	"posture analysis" AND (stress AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	
GL-Pb-S	"postural analysis" AND (stress AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	
GL-A-S	acupressure AND (stress AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	
GL-Fa-S	"fascial treatment" AND (stress AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	
GL-Fb-S	"fascial manipulation" AND (stress AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	

Table 4

GL-Pa-PD	"posture analysis" AND ("postural disorder" AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	
GL-Pb-PD	"postural analysis" AND ("postural disorder" AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	
GL-A-PD	acupressure AND ("postural disorder" AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	
GL-Fa-PD	"fascial treatment" AND ("postural disorder" AND (("young adult" OR adolescent))	
GL-Fb-PD	"fascial manipulation" AND ("postural disorder" AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	

Table 5

The researches described by the queries in Table 4 and Table 5 were performed on December 15, 2024.

Results

The following tables report the results, quantified in number of articles found by the research engine used, of the ewsearches performed. In particular Table 6 for the topic "stress" in the literature, Table 7 for the topic "postural disorders" in the literature, Table 8 for the topic "stress" in the grey literature and Table 9 for the topic "postural disorders" in the grey literature.

	T		
L-Pa-S	("posture analysis") AND (("Stress, Psychological"[Mesh]) AND (("Young	0	
	Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		
L-Pb-S	("postural analysis") AND (("Stress,	0	
	Psychological"[Mesh]) AND (("Young		
	Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		
L-A-S	("Acupressure"[Mesh]) AND (("Stress,	9	
	Psychological"[Mesh]) AND (("Young		
	Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		
L-Fa-S	("fascial treatment") AND (("Stress,	0	
	Psychological"[Mesh]) AND (("Young		
	Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		
L-Fb-S	("fascial manipulation") AND (("Stress,	0	
	Psychological"[Mesh]) AND (("Young		
	Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))		

Table 6

L-Pa-PD	("posture analysis") AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND (("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))	11
L-Pb-PD	("postural analysis") AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND (("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))	9
L-A-PD	("Acupressure"[Mesh]) AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND (("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))	0
L-Fa-PD	("fascial treatment") AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND ("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))	0
L-Fb-PD	("fascial manipulation") AND (("Pathological Conditions, Signs and Symptoms"[Mesh]) AND ("Posture"[Mesh]) AND (("Young Adult"[Mesh]) OR ("Adolescent"[Mesh])))	0

Table 7

GL-Fb-S	"fascial manipulation" AND (stress AND (("young adult" OR adolescent))	108
GL-Fa-S	"fascial treatment" AND (stress AND (("young adult" OR adolescent))	7
GL-A-S	acupressure AND (stress AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	4670
GE 10 5	(("young adult" OR adolescent))	504
GL-Pb-S	adult" OR adolescent)) "postural analysis" AND (stress AND	
GL-Pa-S	"posture analysis" AND (stress AND ("young 5	

Table 8

GL-Pa- PD	"posture analysis" AND ("postural disorder" AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	27
GL-Pb- PD	"postural analysis" AND ("postural disorder" AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	29
GL-A- PD	acupressure AND ("postural disorder" AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	8
GL-Fa- PD	"fascial treatment" AND ("postural disorder" AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	0
GL-Fb- PD	"fascial manipulation" AND ("postural disorder" AND ("young adult" OR adolescent))	0

Table 9

In order to verify the results obtained, the researches were carried out twice, obtaining the same numbers in both cases.

Discussion

In light of the results obtained, some considerations can help to better outline the situation that emerges.

With regard to the first topic considered, "stress", it is particularly evident, looking at Table 6, the lack of literature that seems to exist in reference to the consideration of posture and fascia. Only a very limited number of articles debate the use of acupressure concerning this topic. Furthermore it should be noted that acupressure is also based on the existence and properties of the fascia.

Referring instead to the second topic considered, "postural disorders", looking at Table 7, it seems polite to state that, although postural analysis seems to be more considered, moreover with non-striking numbers, there is still clearly a lack of literature in the consideration of the fascia, and this time also of acupressure, in its possible involvement, despite what the related articles cited previously report.

The grey literature seems to bring more encouraging results, with reference to Table 8, but it should be noted that, precisely because of the impossibility of a structured research such as on databases of the PubMed type, these can often be overestimated, collecting 5. articles not strictly related to the desired topic.

It should also not be overlooked that, in light of this last consideration, the results reported in Table 9, relating to the topic "postural disorders", prove to be even more negatively evident. There are also two other general considerations that are important to highlight.

The first concerns the contrast between the evidence in the literature of the problems considered and the lack of studies on the same subjects.

The second concerns the contrast between the number of articles reporting studies supporting the evidence of the effectiveness of both postural analysis in the evaluation, and of acupressure and fascial treatments in the treatment, and the lack of articles reporting the results of studies conducted on their use.

Conclusions

Even within the limits of this restricted review of the literature, the results obtained seem to indicate a lack of studies regarding the use of postural analysis and fascial treatments, such as acupressure, in facing distress and postural disorders in the range of age that includes adolescents and young adults.

Given on the other hand the presence of many articles supporting the effectiveness of these tools, the need to construct studies in the sense indicated by this article remains consequent.

Declarations

Conflicts of interest

The Author declares that he has no conflicts of interest

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