

EXPERIENCE OF ADOLESCENT MEDICINE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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History of Adolescent Medicine in the Czech Republic: Adolescent medicine was established in the Czech Republic more than 40 years ago. It was built as a branch of medicine focused on the specificities of the adolescent age in both somatic health and psychosocial adaptation. In the 70-ies emphasis of the clinical basis of the adolescent medicine was analogical to that in the USA. The speciality of the adolescent medicine with a special examination was established in 1965 as a speciality following the pediatrics and general medicine training. Network of adolescent medicine: 450 adolescent medicine specialists worked in the Czechoslovakia, special examination in adolescent health care was provided by approximately 250 medical doctors. Changes in the course of transformation of the health care system after the crash of the totalitarian regime: 1. Psychosocial morbidity and mortality markedly increased in adolescent age. 2. Separation of the primary care for adolescents and occupational care. 3. Lack of the youth collectives health care providers. Should the care for adolescents be comprehensive? It should cover up psychosocial problems, community care for the youth collectives, occupational care. Activities of the Czech Society of Adolescent Medicine:

1. Try to change the legislative norms - the community approach.
2. Out-patient units for comprehensive care for adolescents should be in every region in the Czech Republic - emphasis on risk behavior.
3. Postgraduate education for medical doctors interested in the care for adolescents.

