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Transference and Countertransference: Two Concepts Specific to Psychoanalytic Theory and Practice

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The development of the theory of transference and countertransference from Freud to post-Freudian authors is described. It is concluded that the concepts of transference and countertransference are pertinent only within a definite psychoanalytic setting. They cannot be applied in every therapeutic situation.

Key words: psychoanalysis; psychoanalytic theory; psychotherapy