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Antisocial Personality Disorder
M2 Psychiatry Sequence
Cluster B Personality Disorders

Antisocial Personality Disorder

• “A pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others.” (DSM-IV)
Antisocial Personality Disorder

### Diagnostic Criteria for Antisocial Personality Disorder (DSM-IV)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A.</th>
<th>There is a pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others occurring since age 15 years, as indicated by three (or more) of the following:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>Failure to conform to social norms with respect to lawful behaviors as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>Deceitfulness, as indicated by repeated lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>Impulsivity or failure to plan ahead</td>
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<td>(4)</td>
<td>Irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>Reckless disregard for safety of self or others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>Consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behavior or honor financial obligations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>Lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from another</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| B. | The individual is at least age 18 years. |

| C. | There is evidence of Conduct Disorder with onset before age 15 years. |

| D. | The occurrence of antisocial behavior is not exclusively during the course of Schizophrenia or a Manic Episode. |
Antisocial Personality Disorder

Clinical Vignettes
Antisocial Personality Disorder

- Prevalence: 3% of males and 1% of females
- Sex ratio: M:F = 3:1
- Comorbidity: Substance abuse, attention deficit disorder, depression, anxiety
- Family: Somatization disorder, substance abuse, Cluster B disorders, esp. antisocial personality disorder
Antisocial Personality Disorder

Major Clinical Issues

• Violence
• Criminal behavior
• Suicide
Antisocial Personality Disorder

Treatment

• Psychotherapy - Not generally useful, although it may alleviate depression and anxiety, especially if the patient is immobilized (e.g., in jail)

• Medication - May be useful for comorbid disorders; uncontrolled rage may be helped somewhat by antipsychotics or mood stabilizers
Antisocial Personality Disorder

Physician-patient Interaction

- Firm limits are essential
- Substance abuse is a major problem
- Complicated by genuine distress and incessant manipulation