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Narcissistic Personality Disorder
M2 Psychiatry Sequence

Michael Jibson
Fall 2008
Cluster B Personality Disorders

Narcissistic Personality Disorder

• “A pattern of grandiosity, need for admiration, and lack of empathy.” (DSM-IV)
Cluster B Personality Disorders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnostic Criteria for Narcissistic Personality Disorder (DSM-IV)</th>
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<td>A pervasive pattern of grandiosity (in fantasy or behavior), need for admiration, and lack of empathy, beginning by early adulthood and present in a variety of contexts, as indicated by five (or more) of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1) has a grandiose sense of self-importance (e.g., exaggerates achievements and talents, expects to be recognized as superior without commensurate achievements)</td>
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<td>(2) is preoccupied with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love</td>
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<td>(3) believes that he or she is &quot;special&quot; and unique and can only be understood by, or should associate with, other special or high-status people (or institutions)</td>
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<td>(4) requires excessive admiration</td>
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<td>(5) has a sense of entitlement, i.e., unreasonable expectations of especially favorable treatment or automatic compliance with his or her expectations</td>
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<td>(6) is interpersonally exploitative, i.e., takes advantage of others to achieve his or her own ends</td>
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<td>(7) lacks empathy: is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others</td>
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<td>(8) is often envious of others or believes that others are envious of him or her</td>
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<td>(9) shows arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes</td>
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© PD-INEL | American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th ed, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR)
Narcissistic Personality Disorder

Clinical Vignettes
Narcissistic Personality Disorder

- Prevalence: <1% of population
- Sex ratio: 50-75% male
- Comorbidity: Mood disorders, anorexia, substance abuse
- Family: Cluster B disorders
Narcissistic Personality Disorder

Treatment

- Psychotherapy - Psychotherapy is difficult, but is the treatment of choice. Interpersonal therapy (IPT) may be most effective.

- Medication - Antidepressants or mood stabilizers may be helpful for comorbid mood disorders
Narcissistic Personality Disorder

Physician-patient Interaction

• Idealization gives way rapidly to contemptuous devaluation

• Entitlement and condescension are common

• Be aware that it is more often the physician than the patient who has these traits