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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)
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Cluster B Personality Disorders

Diagnostic Criteria for Narcissistic Personality Disorder (DSM-IV)

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:

- (1) has a grandiose sense of self-importance (e.g., exaggerates achievements and talents, expects to be recognized as superior without commensurate achievements)*
- (2) is preoccupied with fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal love*
- (3) believes that he or she is "special" and unique and can only be understood by, or should associate with, other special or high-status people (or institutions)*
- (4) requires excessive admiration*
- (5) has a sense of entitlement, i.e., unreasonable expectations of especially favorable treatment or automatic compliance with his or her expectations*
- (6) is interpersonally exploitative, i.e., takes advantage of others to achieve his or her own ends*
- (7) lacks empathy: is unwilling to recognize or identify with the feelings and needs of others*
- (8) is often envious of others or believes that others are envious of him or her*
- (9) shows arrogant, haughty behaviors or attitudes*



Narcissistic Personality Disorder

Clinical Vignettes



Narcissistic Personality Disorder

Narcissistic Personality Disorder

- Prevalence: <1% of population
 - Sex ratio: 50-75% male
 - Comorbidity: Mood disorders, anorexia, substance abuse
 - Family: Cluster B disorders
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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
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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
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Slide 5: American Psychiatric Association: *Diagnostic and Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4th ed, Text Revision (*DSM-IV-TR*), Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, 2000, p. 717