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Cluster A Personality Disorders

Paranoid Personality Disorder

• “A pattern of distrust or suspiciousness such that others’ motives are interpreted as malevolent.” (DSM-IV)
## Cluster A Personality Disorders

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

A. A pervasive distrust and suspiciousness of others such that their motives are interpreted as malevolent, beginning by early adulthood and present in a variety of contexts, as indicated by our (or more) of the following:

1. suspects, without sufficient basis, that others are exploiting, harming, or deceiving him or her
2. is preoccupied with unjustified doubts about the loyalty or trustworthiness of friends or associates
3. is reluctant to confide in others because of unwarranted fear that the information will be used maliciously against him or her
4. reads hidden demeaning or threatening meanings into benign remarks or events
5. persistently bears grudges, i.e., is unforgiving of insults, injuries, or slights
6. perceives attacks on his or her character or reputation that are not apparent to others and is quick to react angrily or to counterattack
7. has recurrent suspicions, without justification, regarding fidelity of spouse or sexual partner

B. Does not occur exclusively during the course of Schizophrenia, a Mood Disorder With Psychotic Features, or another Psychotic Disorder and is not due to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition.
Paranoid Personality Disorder

Clinical Vignettes
Cluster A Personality Disorders

Paranoid Personality Disorder

• Prevalence: 2% of population.
• Sex ratio: F:M=3:1
• Comorbidity: Brief reactive psychosis, delusional disorder, anxiety, substance abuse, depression, schizophrenia
• Family: Delusional disorder, schizophrenia, Cluster A disorders
Cluster A Personality Disorders

Paranoid Personality Disorder

- Treatment
  - Psychotherapy - Treatment of choice, but patients have limited introspection
  - Medication - Anxiolytics are often useful; antipsychotics sometimes helpful
Cluster A Personality Disorders

Paranoid Personality Disorder

• Physician-patient interaction
  • A straightforward approach, without an expectation of personal warmth is most effective
  • Greater empathy may actually make the patient more anxious
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