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Cluster A Personality Disorders

Schizoid Personality Disorder

- “A pattern of detachment from social relationships and a restricted range of emotional expression.” (DSM-IV)
Schizoid Personality Disorder

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

**A.** A pervasive pattern of detachment from social relationships and a restricted range of expression of emotions in interpersonal settings, beginning by early adulthood and present in a variety of contexts, as indicated by four (or more) of the following:

1. neither desires nor enjoys close relationships, including being part of a family
2. almost always chooses solitary activities
3. has little, if any, interest in having sexual experiences with another person
4. takes pleasure in few, if any, activities
5. lacks close friends or confidants other than first-degree relatives
6. appears indifferent to the praise or criticism of others
7. shows emotional coldness, detachment, or flattened affectivity

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

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American Psychiatric Association: *Diagnostic and Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4th ed, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR)
Schizoid Personality Disorder

Clinical Vignettes
Schizoid Personality Disorder

- Prevalence: 3% of population
- Sex ratio: M>F
- Comorbidity: Delusional disorder, schizophrenia
- Family: Schizophrenia, Cluster A disorders, esp. schizotypal personality disorder
Schizoid Personality Disorder

• Treatment
  • Psychotherapy - Treatment of choice; introspection is usually good
  • Medication - Low doses of antipsychotics or antidepressants are occasionally helpful
Schizoid Personality Disorder

Schizoid Personality Disorder

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