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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)

#### 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.

American Psychiatric Association: *Diagnostic and Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed, Text Revision (*DSM-IV-TR*)



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

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

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Slide 5: American Psychiatric Association: *Diagnostic and Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed, Text Revision (*DSM-IV-TR*), Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, 2000, p. 697