



## Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2006

### I11 A Pilot Study: Do Paraphilic and Non-Paraphilic Sex Offenders Differ on Measures of Compulsive and Impulsive Traits?

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After attending this presentation, attendees will 1) be able to distinguish difference between paraphilic and nonparaphilic sex offenders; 2) be able to appreciate difference between impulsivity and compulsivity; 3) will be able to become acquainted with current assessment methods and treatments of sex offenders; and 4) will be able to learn of current legislation involving sex offenders.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating a hopeful impact of this presentation on the audience is to stimulate more thought regarding improved clinical assessment of the sex offender. Improving assessment may lead to improved treatment, potentially decreasing recidivism.

**Objective:** Sex offenders may be categorized clinically as “para-philic” and “non-paraphilic” and also has been described as either “impulsive” and as “compulsive.” There have been few studies to determine whether traits such as obsessive-compulsiveness or impulsivity differentiate paraphilic from non-paraphilic sex offenders. Such delin- eation between these groups or even among subsets of these groups may provide a more focused approach in the administration of treatment that is currently more governed by legal history than by clinical variables.

**Method:** 21 male adjudicated sex offenders, 9 paraphiles and 12 non- paraphiles, participating in outpatient group therapy were evaluated by the Millon Clinical Inventory-III, the Yale-Brown Obsessive-Compulsive Scale (YBOCS), and the Barratt Impulsive Scale, Version 11 (BIS-11) to determine if significant differences in obsessive-compulsive and impulsive traits existed between paraphilic and non-paraphilic sex offenders.

**Results:** 44.4% of the paraphiles showed measurable obsessive-com- pulsive traits versus 25% of the non-paraphiles on the YBOCS. Only 44.4% of the paraphiles demonstrated significant impulsive traits versus 83.8% of the non-paraphiles as measured by the Barratt Impulsiveness Scale, Version 11.

**Conclusion:** These results indicate significant differences in the presence of obsessive-compulsive and impulsive traits between groups of sex offenders. Paraphilic offenders demonstrated more obsessive-compul- siveness and non-paraphilic offenders demonstrated more impulsivity. These findings may indicate that clinical assessment of such traits could direct future treatment efforts.

**Sex Offenders, Impulsive, Compulsive**