



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 20??

I14 Risk Assessment and Treatment of Paraphilic Sex Offenders

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At the end of this presentation participants will be able to describe approaches to risk assessment of sex offenders and describe pharmacologic treatments for paraphilic sex offenders.

The purpose of this presentation is to describe pharmacological treatments for juvenile and adult sex offenders and to review basic approaches to sex offender risk assessments.

Individuals who engage in sexual offenses may be afflicted with a paraphilic disorder or sexual deviation syndrome. Paraphilias are psychiatric disorders characterized by deviant and culturally non-sanctioned sexual fantasies, thoughts and/or behaviors. Though afflicted individuals usually become aware of the unconventionality of their sexual deviancies around the time of puberty, the preponderance does not seek treatment voluntarily and preemptively. A small proportion of these individuals may also suffer from symptoms of mental illness that can go unrecognized. Approaches to management involve assessing risk and offering pharmacological treatment if needed. Several pharmacologic agents have been tried to ameliorate symptoms, including testosterone-lowering and serotonergic medications. Various modalities have also been proposed and used to assess an individual's risk for engaging in problematic sexual behaviors. In assessing risk, ethical dilemmas often arise, especially related to the role of mental health professionals in assessing risk, judging the adequacy of consent, and distinguishing between correctional and treatment functions. The purpose of this workshop is to describe pharmacological treatments for juvenile and adult sex offenders and to review basic approaches to sex offender risk assessments. Finally, the presentation will include commentary related to ethical considerations in working with this population. Through case examples, discussions about particular issues faced by audience members will be encouraged.

Sex Offenders, Paraphilias, Treatment