



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 20??

I15 Risk Assessment and Treatment of Pedophilic Sex Offenders

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After attending this presentation, participants will be able to describe approaches to risk assessment of sex offenders, describe pharmacologic treatments for paraphilic sex offenders, and discuss ethical considerations in treating and assessing sex offenders.

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

Individuals who engage in sexual offending behavior may present with paraphilic disorders, such as pedophilia or sexual sadism. Paraphilias are psychiatric disorders characterized by deviant and culturally non-sanctioned sexual fantasies, thoughts, or behaviors. Though afflicted individuals usually become aware of the unconventionality of their sexual deviancies around the time of puberty, the preponderance of paraphilic patients seeks treatment after being arrested for a sexual offense(s). 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 paraphilic symptoms, including testosterone-lowering and serotonergic medications. Various modalities have also been proposed and used to assess an individual's risk for engaging in sexual offending behavior. 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 presentation is to describe pharmacological treatments for adult paraphilic sex offenders and to review basic approaches to sex offender risk assessment.

Pedophilia, Risk Assessment, Management