



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2011

I36 Psychotic Parricides and Psychopathy

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have a better understanding of psychotic parricides and level of psychopathy.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by discussing the unanswered questions in psychotic parricides: if there is a level of psychopathy or are the offenders mentally ill.

While parricide is a sensational crime, substantial research on the malfeasance is lacking. Case studies or small case series have yielded minimal research on the matter, while research that is at hand focuses on abuse as the major contributing factor. Some studies have examined how matricide and patricide counter one another; revealing that sons are predominately the offenders of pure matricides. Subsequently, sons suffer a great deal of mental illness in these distinct cases. The limited literature presented on this grave matter has yet to distinguish parricides where mental illness has contributed, from parricides as a result of sociopathy alone. For this small case-control study, six cases of psychotic parricides were compared to seven cases of non-psychotic parricides, in an attempt to delineate the differences that contribute to predicting and assessing risks within these two distinct populations. The sample was collected from private practice records as a retrospective chart review. Data was blinded, as to protect the cases anonymity. All parents, siblings and grandparents were not differentiated as step, half, or maternal/paternal to blind the data as much as possible. While such categorical accord lends itself to generalizations as combined families have more dynamics to be addressed this was the only way to blind the data.

Parricide, Psychopathy, Psychotic