I31   **Assessing the Propensity for the Future Risk of Revenge in Secure Forensic Settings and in the Community: An Evidence-Based Approach**

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Learning Overview: The goal of this presentation is to develop awareness of an approach to the holistic assessment of the risk of harm regarding revenge-oriented thoughts, fantasies, and acts. This will be particularly relevant for forensic practitioners from criminal investigation to prosecutors and broader forensic mental health and correctional settings.

Impact on the Forensic Science Community: This presentation will impact the forensic science community by heightening understanding of the complexities and inter-relationships between revenge-oriented personalities, underlying mental health conditions, cognitive processes, and, ultimately, behaviors intended to cause harm. This approach seeks to assist the consideration of how to best tailor the choice/administration of psychometric assessments while increasing confidence in the creation of revenge-based formulation from the most recent evidence-based review.

It is proposed that there is a critical need for forensic practitioners to develop a consideration of revenge when working with clients in applied settings, not only in regard of recent offenses, but in a holistic manner to ensure that risk is fully conceptualized. Although revenge is considered routinely as one of the more prevalent motives in the context of criminal justice and clinical forensic practice, its conceptualization requires more in-depth interpretation to truly formulate risk of future harm and the propensity for revenge-oriented acts. The definitional challenges further require revenge to be assessed more fully than at a surface-level (proximate) understanding of the original transgression and the response, resulting in the potential for limited psychological insights. Ultimately, the act of revenge is the outcome of several complex processes requiring consideration of any underlying predisposition and the baseline propensity for revenge (trait and state), the relevance of any prior traumatic events experienced, cognitive processes such as fantasy and violent ideation, grievance thinking and rumination, and the resources and opportunities available to act.

Currently, the possibilities for the assessment of revenge are challenging in that any approach is heavily focused on the emotion of anger with limited consideration of broader elements that can stimulate such behavior and impede the capacity to develop a holistic interpretation and risk formulation. This is critical when attempting to identify the roots and routes of revenge and how this can be fueled in complex, dynamic environments, whether already brewing or through the exploitation of vulnerable individuals for whom revenge can become a new narrative and focus. This presentation will outline challenges in comprehensively assessing propensity for revenge to ensure a psychologically meaningful outcome.

A psychometric critique of measures comprising anger and aggression, personality (normative and disordered), post-traumatic stress and embitterment, empathy, rumination, violent ideation, forgiveness, and vengeance/revenge will be presented. This has been based on a consideration of revenge across offenses and contexts and further draws on findings from a recent scoping review on human-induced trauma in addition to discussions with subject matter experts in the fields of forensic mental health and trauma. Hence, it has been possible to develop a process model for considering the critical elements of revenge when conducting tailored formulations of risk.

Revenge, Risk, Assessment