

MRCPPsych General Adult Module

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Personality Disorders

Developing people

for health and

healthcare

GA Module: Personality Disorders

Aims and Objectives

- Aims
 - To give an overview of personality disorders
- Objectives:
 - By the end of the sessions, trainees should have:
An understanding of personality disorders (aetiology, epidemiology, diagnostic criteria, classification, psychopathology, clinical presentation, assessment, course and prognosis) and their management (pharmacological, psychological, social).

GA Module: Personality Disorders

To achieve this

- Case Presentation
 - Journal Club
 - 555 Presentation
 - Expert-Led Session
 - MCQs
-
- Please sign the register and complete the feedback

GA Module: Personality Disorders

Expert Led Session

Personality Disorders: an overview

Contents

- What is personality?
- Models of personality
- What is a personality disorder?
- Classification
- Aetiological theories
- Epidemiology
- Course & Prognosis
- Assessment of personality disorders
- Management / Treatment
- References and Further reading
- MCQs

What is 'personality'?

What is 'personality'?

Health Education England

From the Latin word 'persona', relating to a theatrical mask worn by performers to either project different roles or disguise their identities

'That which permits a prediction of what a person will do in a given situation...'

–Raymond B Cattell, 1950

'The distinctive patterns of behaviour (thoughts, feelings, emotions, actions) that characterise each individual enduringly.'

– Walter Mischel, 1999

'A pattern of relatively permanent traits and unique characteristics that give both consistency and individuality to a person's behaviour.'

– Feist and Feist 2009

'The ingrained patterns of thought, feeling and behaviour characterizing an individual's unique lifestyle and mode of adaptation, and resulting from constitutional factors, development and social experience.'

– World Health Organisation Lexicon of Psychiatric and Mental Health Terms



Models of Personality

- Various different models to explain personality have been developed:

Categorical

Eg ICD-10/DSM-V categories

Disorders in personality are seen as discrete categories

Experimental Approach

Looks for general laws and causal relationships between personality variables

Correlational Approach

Assumes the structure of personality is common to all but varies in combinations of traits

Psychoanalytic Approach

Eg Sigmund Freud

Assesses personality using the psychological principles of the superego, id, ego and defence mechanisms

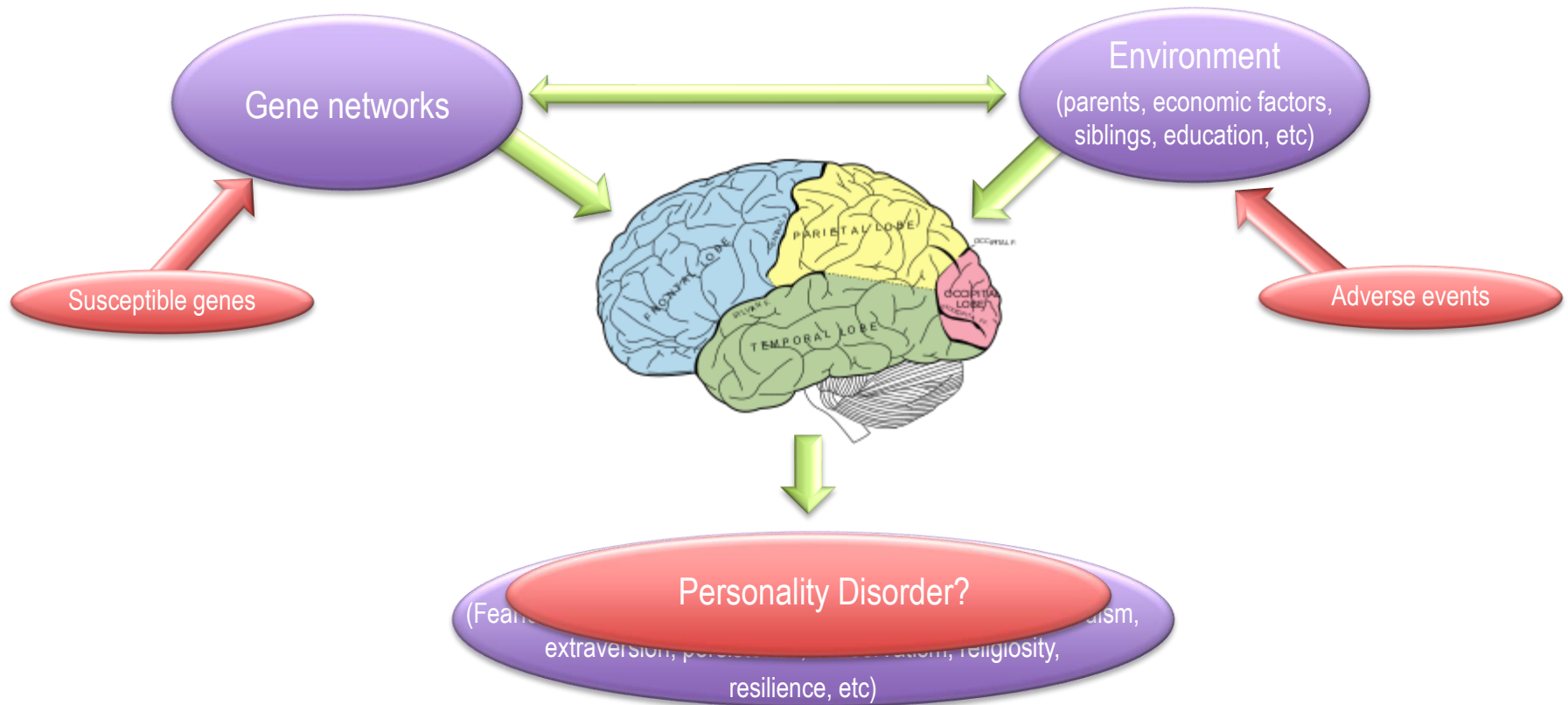
Dimensional Models

Eg Eysenck's theory, OCEAN

Traits are distributed within dimensions, enabling classification of people by their personality type

Genes, the Environment and Personality Health Education England

- Hamer (2002) argued for a complex interaction between genes and environment to produce personality traits:



What is ‘personality disorder’?

What is personality disorder

- When personality develops in such a way as to be harmful or distressing to themselves and/or others and interferes with daily functioning

ICD10 Description

Deeply engrained and **enduring behavior patterns**, manifesting as **inflexible responses** to a broad range of **personal** and **social situations**.

They represent **extreme** or **significant deviations** from the way in which the average individual in a given culture **perceives, thinks, feels** and, particularly, **relates to others**.

Such behavior patterns tend to be stable and to **encompass multiple domains** of **behavior** and **psychological** functioning.

They are frequently, but not always associated with various degrees of **subjective distress** and **problems of social performance**.

They usually manifest since childhood or adolescence and continue throughout adulthood.

DSM-V Description

The essential features are impairments in personality (**self** and **interpersonal**) functioning and the presence of **pathological personality traits**.

Significant impairments in **self** (identity or self-direction) and **interpersonal** (empathy or intimacy) functioning and one or more pathological personality trait domains or trait facets.

The impairments in personality functioning and the individual's trait expression are **relatively stable** across **time** and consistent across **situations**.

Personality Disorder Classification *Health Education England*

There are differences in diagnoses between ICD and DSM:

ICD-10
F60.0 Paranoid
F60.1 Schizoid
F60.2 Dissocial
F60.3 Emotionally Unstable
F60.4 Histrionic
F60.5 Anankastic
F60.6 Anxious (avoidant)
F60.7 Dependent
F60.8 Other (inc. narcissistic)

DSM-V
Paranoid
Schizoid
Schizotypal
Antisocial
Borderline
Histrionic
Narcissistic
Obsessive-Compulsive
Avoidant
Dependent

DSM-V

Retains current diagnostic classification but also includes a radical shift in the appendix for further research into a hybrid methodology retaining six personality types but addressing degree of impairment in functioning.

ICD-11

Is mooted to follow a similar pattern using 6 domain traits with an additional specifier for severity of disorder

Personality Disorder Clusters *Health Education England*

DSM-III grouped personality disorders into clusters:

Cluster A

Odd or Eccentric

Paranoid

Schizoid

Schizotypal

Cluster B

Dramatic or Erratic

Histrionic

Narcissistic

Borderline

Antisocial

Cluster C

Anxious

Avoidant

Dependant

Obsessive-Compulsive

Features of Cluster A PD

- Characterised by odd, eccentric beliefs and behaviours
- Have an unwillingness and inability to form and maintain close relationships
- Unusual perceptions are distinguishable from psychotic illness

Paranoid PD

Irrational suspicion

Mistrustful

Jealous

Sensitive

Resentful

Bears grudges

Self-importance

Interpret motives as malevolent

Schizoid PD

Emotionally detached

Apathy

Aloof

Lack of desire for close friendships

Preoccupation with fantasy

Introspective

Schizotypal PD (DSM-V)

Extreme discomfort in interactions

Paranoid thoughts

Perceptual abnormalities

Strange beliefs or magical thinking

Inappropriate or constricted affect

Odd, eccentric, peculiar behaviour

Features of Cluster B PD

- Characterised by dramatic, overly emotional or unpredictable behaviour
- Extreme difficulty in relating to others

Dissocial PD

Callous disregard for others

Transient relationships

Irresponsible

Impulsive and irritable

Lack of guilt and remorse

Fail to accept responsibility

Criminal and antisocial behaviour

Histrionic PD

Self-dramatization

Shallow, labile affect

Seeks attention and excitement

Suggestibility

Inappropriately seductive

Exaggerated expression of emotions

Self-indulgence

Narcissistic PD (DSM-V)

Grandiose sense of self-importance

Fantasises about unlimited success

Believes self to be special

Requires excessive admiration

Sense of entitlement from others

Exploits others for own benefit

Lack of empathy

Envious of others

Features of Cluster B PD

- Emotionally Unstable Personality Disorder is characterised by emotional lability, impulsivity and disturbance in interpersonal relationships

EUPD Impulsive Type

Emotional lability

Explosive outbursts of emotion

Lack of impulse control

Liability to anger and violence

Quarrelsome

Difficulty maintaining course of action

Unstable, capricious mood

EUPD PD Borderline Type

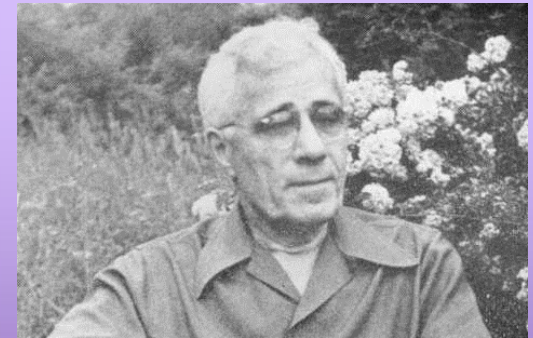
Disturbances in self-image

Chronic feelings of emptiness

Intense and unstable relationships

Tendency to self-destructive behaviour

Fear of abandonment



*'It is well known that a large group of patients fit frankly neither into the psychotic nor into the psychoneurotic group, and that this **borderline** group of patients is extremely difficult to handle effectively by any psychotherapeutic method'*

--Adolph Stern, 1938

Features of Cluster C PD

- Characterised by high levels of anxiety and fear
- Often have a significant desire for relationships but struggle to manage them appropriately

Anankastic PD

Inhibited by perfectionism

Excessive conscientiousness

Preoccupation with details

Stubbornness and rigidity

Expects others to conform to their view

Unwelcome thoughts

Feelings of doubt

Anxious (Avoidant) PD

Feelings of tension and apprehension

Feel insecure and inferior

Yearning to be accepted

Hypersensitivity to rejection/criticism

Restricted personal attachment

Excessively fearful of potential danger

Avoids social activity due to fear

Dependent PD

Passive reliance on others

Fear of abandonment

Feel helpless and incompetent

Passive compliance with others wishes

Transfer responsibility to others

Relies on others for decision-making

Unwilling to make reasonable demands

Aetiology

- Cluster A Personality Disorders:

Biological

Modestly heritable (21-28%)

Schizotypal displays the **most genetic influence**

Familial association between schizotypal and schizophrenia

Reduced cortical **dopamine** → poor conceptual organisation → suspiciousness and distorted perception

Environmental

Environmental factors more important

Deficits in early developmental stages lead to **mistrust** and **lack of confidence**

Poor protective care and **affective support** leads to paranoid features

Aetiology

- EUPD:

Biological

Familial factors: parents have high incidence of mood disorders; family history of ASPD/alcoholism

HPA axis dysfunction – leading to increased sensitivity of the amygdala

Abnormal limbic emotional reactivity (insufficient regulation from cingulate and prefrontal areas)

Reduced serotonin metabolite (5-hydroxyindole-acetic acid) in CSF, **blunted prolactin response** to serotonin agonists – thought to be associated with **impulsive aggression**

Environmental

Childhood trauma may play crucial role (up to 45% have history of CSA)

Attachment difficulties in early life → Deficiencies in **self identity**

Poor regulation and modelling of behaviour from others leads to use of **maladaptive coping strategies**

Maladaptive traits evoke **negative response** from environment and **disrupt healthy social development**

Aetiology

- Dissocial PD:

Biological

Genetic factors strongly contribute

Reduced serotonergic activity in the brain thought to lead to **aggression**

Impulsive ADHD is a strong predictor for development of dissocial PD in later life

25% of girls and **40% of boys** with **conduct disorder** will develop dissocial PD

Environmental

Parental deprivation, inconsistent maternal care, family violence, severe childhood physical abuse – **strong predictors**

Social disintegration and chronic criminality reflect a **normal adaptation** to **abnormal social environment**

Aetiology

- Cluster C Personality Disorders:

Biological

Biological mechanisms of anxiety disorders/social phobias have a role in **avoidant PD**

Hypersensitivity of brain areas involved in **separation anxiety** response

Overactivity of serotonergic **limbic** neuronal circuits

Environmental

Criticism / rejection / relentless control by parents → reduced social esteem → social avoidance (*Avoidant PD*)

Control from parents and restriction of autonomy → belief one is helpless → dependency on others (*Dependent PD*)

Parental over-control and strong discipline → guilt if fails to achieve perfection → OCD behaviours (*Anankastic PD*)

Epidemiology

- Personality disorders are common

4.4%

Prevalence in UK households

~50%

Prevalence in secondary care
mental health services

60-80%

Prevalence in prison population

M > F

For all disorders except schizotypal
in household survey

17-18 years

Shorter life span for those with PD,
not explained by lifestyle/suicide

24-28%

Primary Care attendees

**Cluster B + psychotic,
affective, anxiety
disorders**

Strong associations

**Cluster C + affective
disorders, anxiety
disorders**

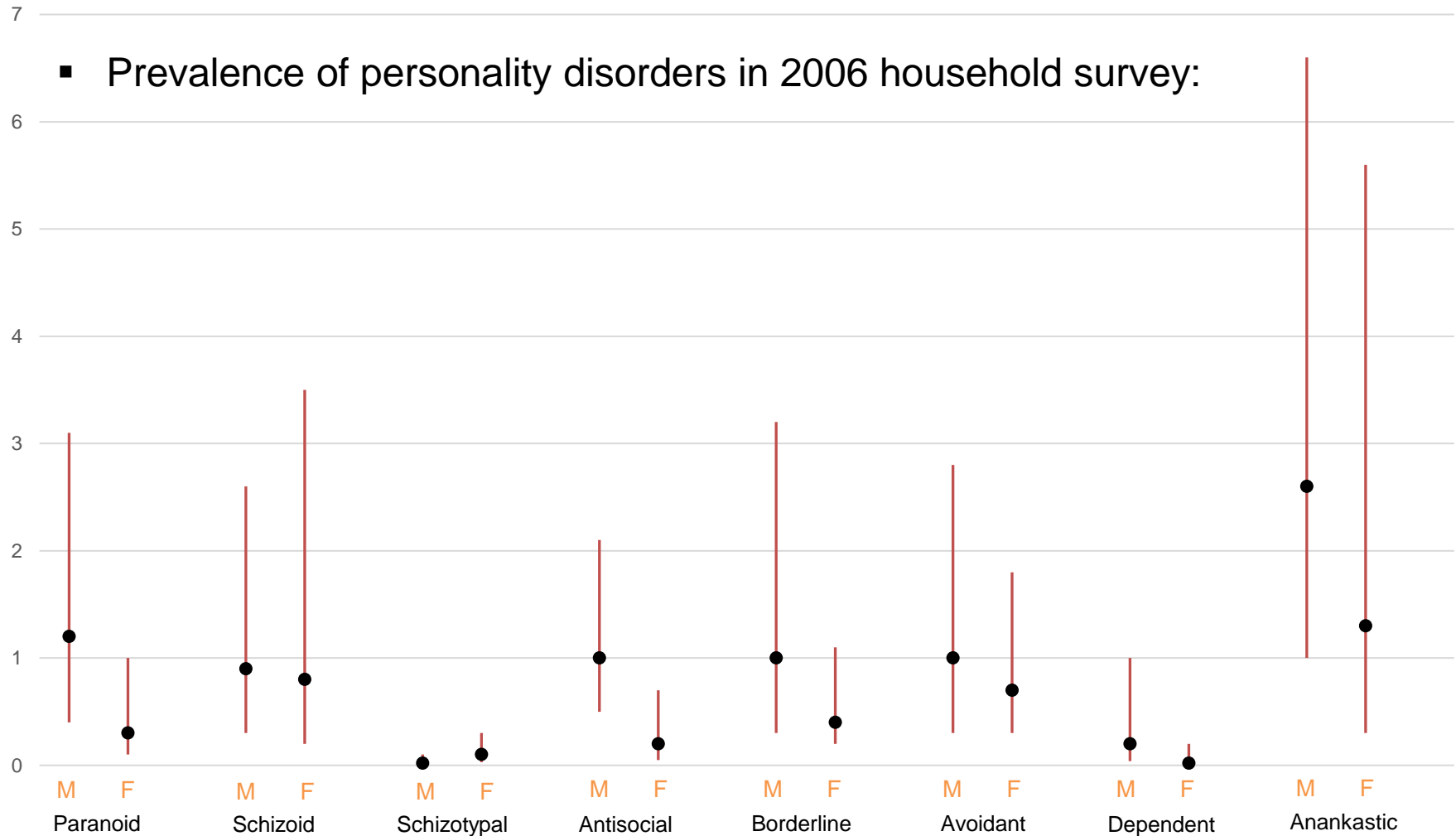
Strong associations

**Separated, unemployed,
low social class, living
in urban areas**

Increased prevalence

Epidemiology

- Prevalence of personality disorders in 2006 household survey:



Epidemiology

- Suicide and self-harm are highly prevalent in PD populations
- In EUPD:

50-80%

Engage in deliberate self-harm

41%

Have >50 acts of deliberate self-harm

5-10%

Will die by suicide

- Risks are significantly increased by comorbid MH diagnosis
- In patients who present with DSH to A+E:

45.9%

Diagnosed with personality disorder

44.1%

Diagnosed with personality disorder and MH comorbidity

Course & Prognosis

- Personality disorders have been considered as life-long conditions
- However, evidence is emerging that their outcome is more positive
- Remission over a ten year period is common
- EUPD patients lag behind other PDs in terms of remission and recovery

Remission

No longer meet diagnostic criteria

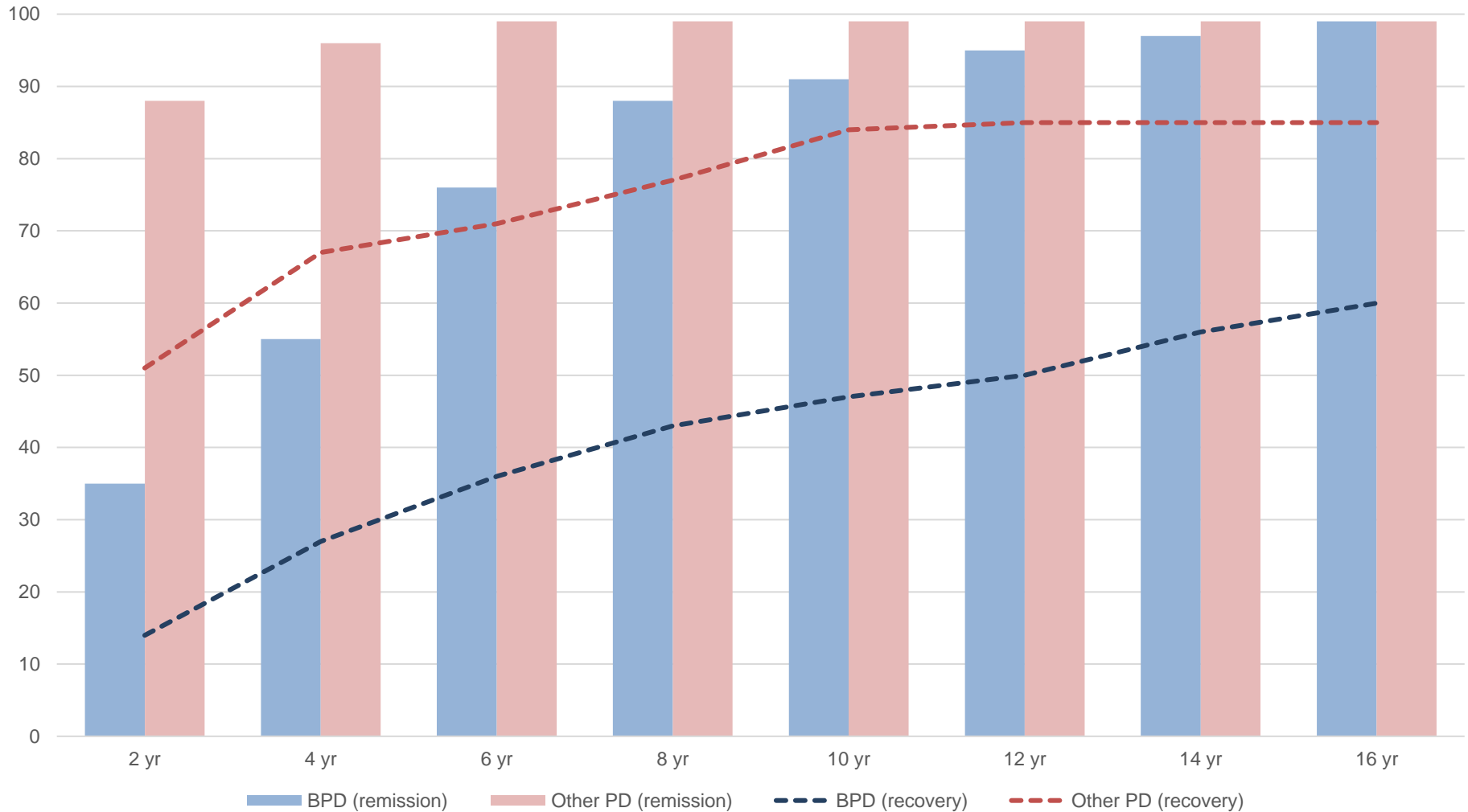
Recovery

Symptomatic, vocational and social wellness

- Once a patient has met criteria for remission, a substantial and sustained recurrence of symptoms is rare
- In EUPD patients, some symptoms are more chronic, and improve in order:



Course & Prognosis



Assessment of personality disorder

- Thorough history including developmental history, social history, personal history and thorough risk assessment are vital
- In order to diagnose PD it is important to gather premorbid personality history
- Comorbid mental disorder may cloud the overall picture
- Collateral history from someone who knew the patient well is vital
- It is important to identify comorbid mental illness
- It is important to consider to what extent personality difficulties have impacted patient's sense of self, relationships with others, daily functioning

Assessment Tools

- A variety of structured assessment tools are available for PD diagnosis:

Personality Assessment Schedule (PAS)

Semi-structured interview with informant

ICD-10 + DSM-IV criteria

24 questions

International Personality Disorder Examination (IPDE)

Semi-structured interview with patients

ICD-10 + DSM-IV criteria

537 questions

Structured Clinical Interview for PD (SCID-II)

Semi-structured interview with patients

DSM-IV criteria

303 questions

Zanarini Rating Scale for Borderline PD

Semi-structured interview with patients

DSM-IV criteria

9 questions

Management of EUPD

Psychological Treatment

*Covered in detail in psychotherapy module

There is evidence that various modalities of psychological therapy help core and associated general psychopathology:

- Dialectical Behaviour Therapy
- Mentalization Based Therapy
- Transference Focussed Therapy
- Schema Focussed Therapy
- Systems Training for Emotional Predictability
- Problem Solving for Borderline Personality Disorder (STEPPS)

There is little robust evidence supporting one therapy over another

NICE CG78:

Do not use **brief psychological interventions** (of less than 3 months' duration).

For **women**... for whom **reducing recurrent self-harm** is a priority, consider a comprehensive **dialectical behavior therapy** programme.

Psychological Treatment

*Covered in detail in psychotherapy module

Health Education England

- Psychosocial treatment is recommended as the primary treatment for personality disorders including EUPD.
- NICE suggest a mixture of group and individual therapies integrated with other services (social care, employment support, substance misuse services).

Psychological Treatment

*Covered in detail in psychotherapy module

Health Education England

There are five common characteristics of evidence-based psychological treatments for EUPD:

Structured approaches to prototypic EUPD problems

Patients encouraged to **assume control** themselves (sense of agency)

Therapists help connections of **feelings** to **events** and **actions**

Therapists are **active, responsive** and **validating**

Therapists **discuss** cases and **personal reactions** with others

Pharmacological Treatment

- NICE does not recommend any specific drug intervention for treatment of EUPD
- Sedatives (eg antihistamine) may be used in crisis
- Prescriptions should be short-term time-limited
- Medication should be used to treat comorbidities only

However...

NICE CG78:

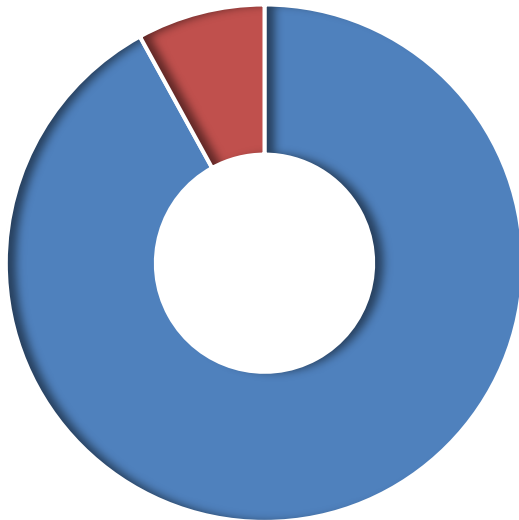
Drug treatment should not be used specifically for borderline personality disorder or for the individual symptoms or behavior associated with the disorder.

Antipsychotic drugs should not be used for the medium- and long-term treatment of borderline PD.

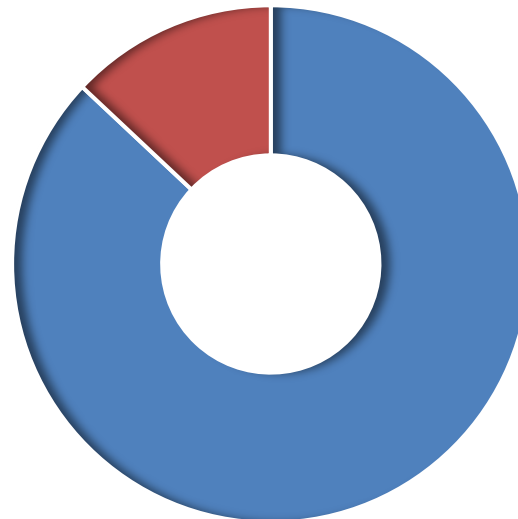
Drug treatment may be considered in the overall treatment of comorbid conditions.

Short term sedative medication may be considered in a crisis

Pharmacological Treatment



92% of EUPD patients are prescribed psychotropics



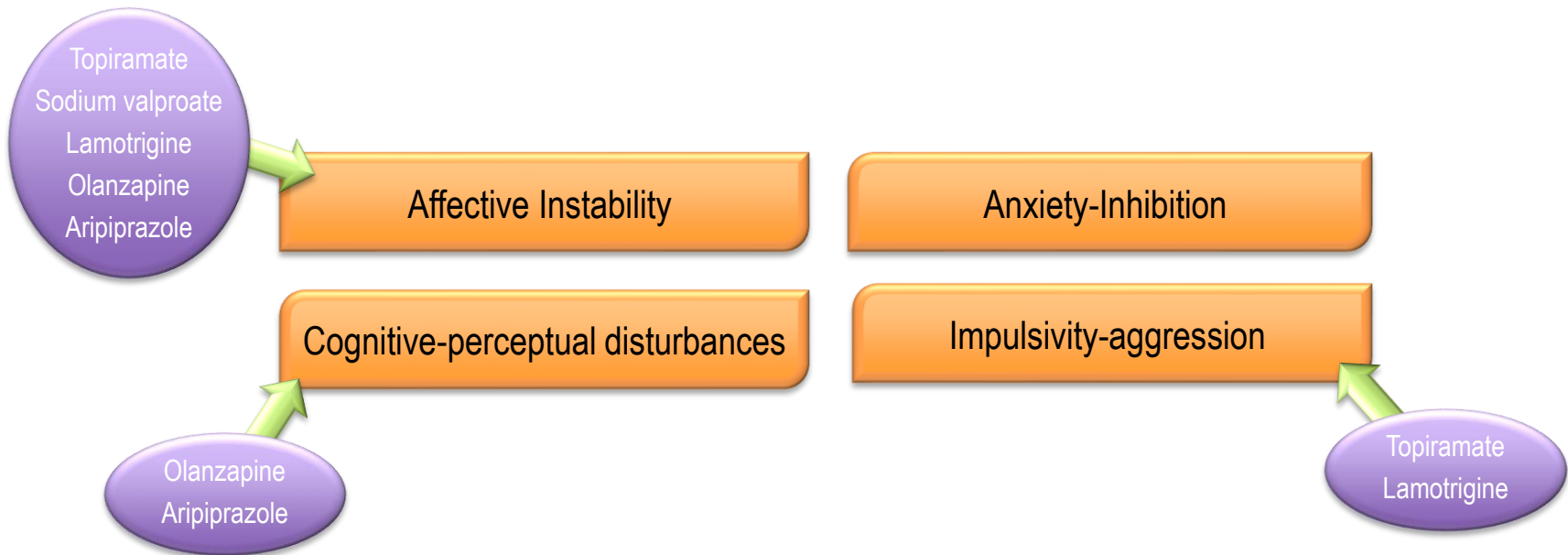
87% of people with a sole diagnosis of EUPD are prescribed psychotropics



Where EUPD is the sole diagnosis:
 13% - no medication
 21% - 1 medication
 28% - 2 medications
 23% - 3 medications
 16% - 4 medications

Pharmacological Treatment

- Some researchers argue for treatment of individual behaviour dimensions common to all personality disorders rather than treat the disorder itself:

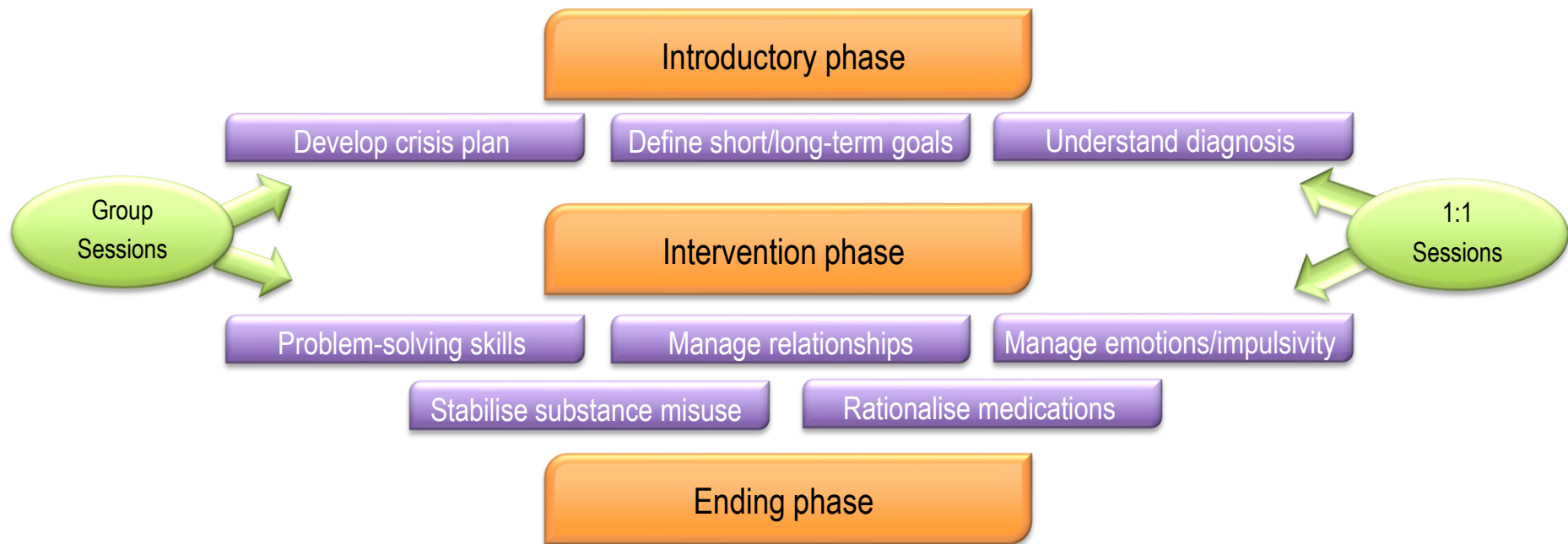


- A 2010 Cochrane review supported treatment of specific dimensions
- There is no evidence for drug treatment of chronic emptiness, feelings of abandonment or identity disturbance
- There is no evidence that SSRIs are beneficial in treatment of EUPD

Structured Clinical Management

Health Education England

- Originally devised as a control for psychotherapy interventions for PD studies
- Essentially, the core elements of ‘good psychiatric care’ have positive impact in patients with EUPD



Treatment of Dissocial PD

- There is insufficient evidence for psychological interventions
- MBT, DBT and Democratic Therapeutic Community can be offered
- Major improvements only related to substance misuse outcomes
- No studies have demonstrated improvements in antisocial behaviour
- There is insufficient evidence of pharmacological interventions

Democratic Therapeutic Community

- DBT has been offered to those with Dissocial PD and EUPD
- Integrates a range of psychological approaches
- Enables members to re-experience and re-enact relationship difficulties
- Data is conflicting and comes from meta-analyses of poor-quality studies
- However, DCT continues to be offered in many different forms in the UK
- It is not specifically recommended by NICE

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Any Questions?

Thank you

References & Further Reading

Diagnosis and epidemiology:

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Treatment:

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MCQ

1. Which of the following is NOT a personality disorder in ICD-10?
 - A. Schizoid personality
 - B. Paranoid personality
 - C. Emotionally unstable personality
 - D. Schizotypal personality
 - E. Anankastic personality

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MCQ

2. What is the estimated prevalence of personality disorders in the prison population?

- A. 5-20%
- B. 20-40%
- C. 40-60%
- D. 60-80%
- E. 80-95%

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MCQ

3. A 36 year old man is visited at home by his GP. There is very little furniture, no television, no ornaments or pictures on the wall. He is indifferent to these observations, stating he has no need of those things. He has limited contact with his family and does not have any friends. He is clear he does not feel lonely or depressed. Which of the following personality disorders could he have?
- A. Histrionic
 - B. Antisocial
 - C. Paranoid
 - D. Schizotypal
 - E. Schizoid

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MCQ

4. Which of the following is recommended in the management of emotionally unstable personality disorder?

- A. Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors
- B. Minimum inpatient stay of one month
- C. Eye movement desensitisation and reprogramming
- D. Structured clinical management
- E. Polypharmacy

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Any Questions?

Thank you.