Eliciting Truth from the Personality-Disordered Sex Offender, Part 1

21st Annual Conference on the Management of Adults and Juveniles with Sexual Behavior Problems

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“A lie would have no sense unless the truth were felt dangerous.” – Alfred Adler

Overview...

• Part 1
  - Polygraph Information
  - Understanding Lying Behavior
  - Indicators of Deception

• Part 2
  - Characteristics of Personality Disorders
  - Utilizing knowledge of PDOs to elicit truth
Polygraph FAQ’s

- How reliable are polygraphs?
- How do polygraphs work?
- Who uses polygraphs tests?
- Why use polygraph tests if they are not admissible in court?
- Can you beat a polygraph?
- What if I am really nervous?
- What happens when you take a polygraph?

A Good Liar...

- Includes some truth
- Gives unverifiable excuses
- Appeals to your emotions
- Believes his own lie
Children have learned to lie by what age?
(Bronson & Merryman, 2009)

Why do people lie?

- To avoid getting in trouble
- To make themselves look better
- To protect other’s feelings
40% of parents believe it is okay to lie to their children about what?
(Fu, Evans, Wang & Lee, 2010)

Deception Indicators
- Emotion Expression
- Verbal Indicators
- Physical Movements
What profession is the most dishonest?
(Wanis, 2010)

Lying and Defense Mechanisms

- Denial
- Projection
- Passive Aggression
- Intellectualization/ Rationalization
- Humor
- Displacement
- Undoing/ compensation
- Reaction formation
79% of adults have given false contact information or invented a false identity in what situation?
(White, 2000)

What can I do when I think someone is lying?

- Allow silence
- Change the subject
- Finish their sentences
- Ask open or vague questions
- Explain your perspective
- Intensify the threat of being caught
“Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it.”
- Adolf Hitler

Lying Examples

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iC4tHLqLtpA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iC4tHLqLtpA)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh163n1lj4M&p=E9512B9772F08A55&index=2&playnext=2](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh163n1lj4M&p=E9512B9772F08A55&index=2&playnext=2)
- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh163n1lj4M&p=E9512B9772F08A55&playnext=1&index=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh163n1lj4M&p=E9512B9772F08A55&playnext=1&index=1)
Thank you!

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References

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Eliciting Truth from the Personality-Disordered Sex Offender, Part 2

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“In most of us, by the age of thirty, the character has set like plaster, and will never soften again.”
– William James

Overview...

• Part 1
  - Polygraph Information
  - Understanding Lying Behavior
  - Indicators of Deception

• Part 2
  - Characteristics of Personality Disorders
  - Utilizing knowledge of PDOs to elicit truth
How are PDs different from other mental illnesses?

- Enduring
- Pervasive
- Inflexible
- Stable
- Onset in teen years or early adulthood
- Though distressful, highly unlikely to seek professional help
- High comorbidity

Clusters of PDO’s

- **Cluster A: Odd or Eccentric**
  - Paranoid PDO
  - Schizoid PDO
  - Schizotypal PDO
- **Cluster B: Dramatic, Emotional, Erratic**
  - Antisocial PDO
  - Borderline PDO
  - Histrionic PDO
  - Narcissistic PDO
- **Cluster C: Anxious or Fearful**
  - Avoidant PDO
  - Dependent PDO
  - Obsessive-Compulsive PDO
Prevalence

- 10-13% of general population (Weismann, 1993)
- Antisocial PDO (Stout, 2005)
  - 4% of general population
  - 20% of prison inmates
  - 80% of violent offenders
- Of female inmates (Louisiana State Penitentiary, 2011)
  - 79% borderline
  - 17% narcissistic
  - 4% antisocial

Schizoid PD

- Detached
- Limited emotional expression
- Indifferent to praise/criticism
- Aloof, unaffected
- Uncomfortable when questioned
- Oblivious to others’ emotions
- Perpetual loners
- Examples (schizoid traits, not disorder)
  - Batman
  - Sandra Bullock in The Net
Cues to look for:

- Lack of social skills
- Little/ no social support
- Prefer to be alone
- Non-confrontational/ passive aggression

Howard Hughes
Dear, sweet Joe:

You fat con man. You probably think I treated you badly by quitting without notice, but it's your own fault. You gave me this big cock-and-bull story about how much money I could make selling tires and all that crap. "The sky's the limit" and so forth. If you had been honest with me I would not have taken the job in the first place; but if I hadn't taken it I wouldn't have quit without giving you a couple of weeks notice. Anyhow, I have a check coming. I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which you can send it. I had better get that check, because I know what authorities to complain to if I don't get it. If I have to complain about the check, then while I'm at it, I might as well complain about the fact that you don't have a proper cage for putting air in split-rim tires, which, if I am not mistaken, is illegal.

Love and kisses,
Ted Kaczynski
Antisocial PD

- Lack of empathy, lack of remorse
- Impulsive, aggressive
- Deceitful
- Conduct DO as a child
- Charismatic, charming
- Psychopathy
  - Self-centered
  - Manipulative
- Examples
  - Anthony Hopkins in *Silence of the Lambs*
  - Michael Douglas in *Wall Street*
  - Javier Bardem in *No Country for Old Men*

Cues to Look for:

- The pity play
- Lack of remorse/ empathy
- Making large, unlikely claims
Charles Manson

Dennis Rodman
“Monsters. Aliens. Phantoms. None of them are real. The thought that an actual person could do this is too awful. So our imaginations create a way to make it easier to take. But even the strongest of imaginations can’t protect us once we know the truth.”

-Dexter

Borderline PD

- Intense, chaotic, unstable relationships
- Extreme fear of abandonment
- Manipulation
- Low self-esteem
- Alternates idealization and devaluation of others
- Damaging to self, destructive to others
- Examples
  - Glenn Close in *Fatal Attraction*
  - Winona Ryder in *Girl, Interrupted*
  - Jennifer Jason Leigh in *Single White Female*
Cues to Look for:

- Polarizing/ splitting
- Instability in relationships
- Attempts to manipulate (usually somewhat obvious)

Madonna
Marilyn Monroe

“She is an elusive character lacking in identity, overwhelmed by a barrage of painful emotions, consumed by hunger for love and acceptance, and careening from relationship to relationship and impulse to impulse in a desperate attempt to control these feelings.”

-Dr. Richard A. Moskovitz

Liz Taylor

Glenn Close
Narcissistic PD

- Preoccupation with the self
- Grandiose thinking
- Unrealistic sense of importance
- Need for admiration
- Lack of empathy
- Sense of entitlement
- Fantasies of unlimited success and fame
- Inability to handle criticism
  - May react with rage, humiliation, cool indifference
- Closet Narcissist
  - Omnipotent object rather than grandiose self
- Examples
  - Jack Nicholson in *A Few Good Men*
  - Saddam Hussein

Cues to look for

- Reaction to criticism
- Boredom with any topics not related to self
- Boastful, bragging
DSM-V: Changes to Anticipate

- Eliminates histrionic, paranoid, schizoid, and dependent personality disorders.
- Each PDO will be evaluated on basis of self-functioning and interpersonal functioning.
- New diagnosis: Personality Disorder Trait Specified (PDTS)
  - Will specify traits from a list containing terms such as manipulative, deceitful, grandiose, attention-seeking, callous, hostile.

Thank you!

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