Conceptualizing Psychopathy Using the CAPP

 formulation Over Numbers

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Clinical Questions

• What is the nature and severity of the patient’s psychopathic symptomatology?

• Does the patient currently suffer from psychopathy?
Clinical Questions

• Was this patient’s past violence due to psychopathy?
• Has the patient’s violence risk changed due to changes in psychopathic symptomatology?
Clinical Questions

- What should be the focus of treatment for psychopathy for this patient?
- What type of treatment for psychopathy is most appropriate for this patient?
Formulation: PCL-R

PCL-R Total score = 32
Problems: PCL-R

- Its content is not ideal
- Some important features of psychopathy are not captured well or even excluded
- Some features of psychopathy of questionable importance are included
Problems: PCL-R

• Its format makes it insensitive to change
• Focus is on lifetime prevalence
• Many item definitions are anchored in low-frequency, situation-specific behaviors
Problems: PCL-R

- Its item ratings are psychometrically sound but clinically irrelevant
- Rating format confounds nature and severity of symptoms
- Adding ratings to create scores assumes the items are interchangeable
CAPP

• A *conceptual model* intended to provide a definition of psychopathy that is
  • Explicit
  • Comprehensive
  • Lexical
Psychopathic Personality Disorder

**Dominance Domain**
- Antagonistic
- Domineering
- Deceitful
- Manipulative
- Insincere
- Garrulous

**Attachment Domain**
- Detached
- Uncommitted
- Unempathic
- Uncaring

**Emotional Domain**
- Lacks Anxiety
- Lacks Pleasure
- Lacks Emotional Depth
- Lacks Emotional Stability
- Lacks Remorse

**Self Domain**
- Self-Centered
- Self-Aggrandizing
- Sense of Uniqueness
- Sense of Entitlement
- Sense of Invulnerability
- Self-Justifying
- Unstable Self-Concept

**Cognitive Domain**
- Suspicious
- Lacks Concentration
- Intolerant
- Inflexible
- Lacks Planfulness

**Behavioural Domain**
- Lacks Perseverance
- Unreliable
- Reckless
- Restless
- Disruptive
- Aggressive
CAPP-IRS

- A rating scale based on the CAPP that permits
  - Ratings of overall symptom severity, plus separate ratings of trait extremity and functional impairment
  - Flexible timeframe for ratings
Symptom

Severity

Trait

Extremity

Nature

Functional Impairment

Severity
3 Goals of Treatment
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