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
- Behavioural Domain
  - Lacks Perseverance
  - Unreliable
  - Reckless
  - Restless
  - Disruptive
  - Aggressive
- 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

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

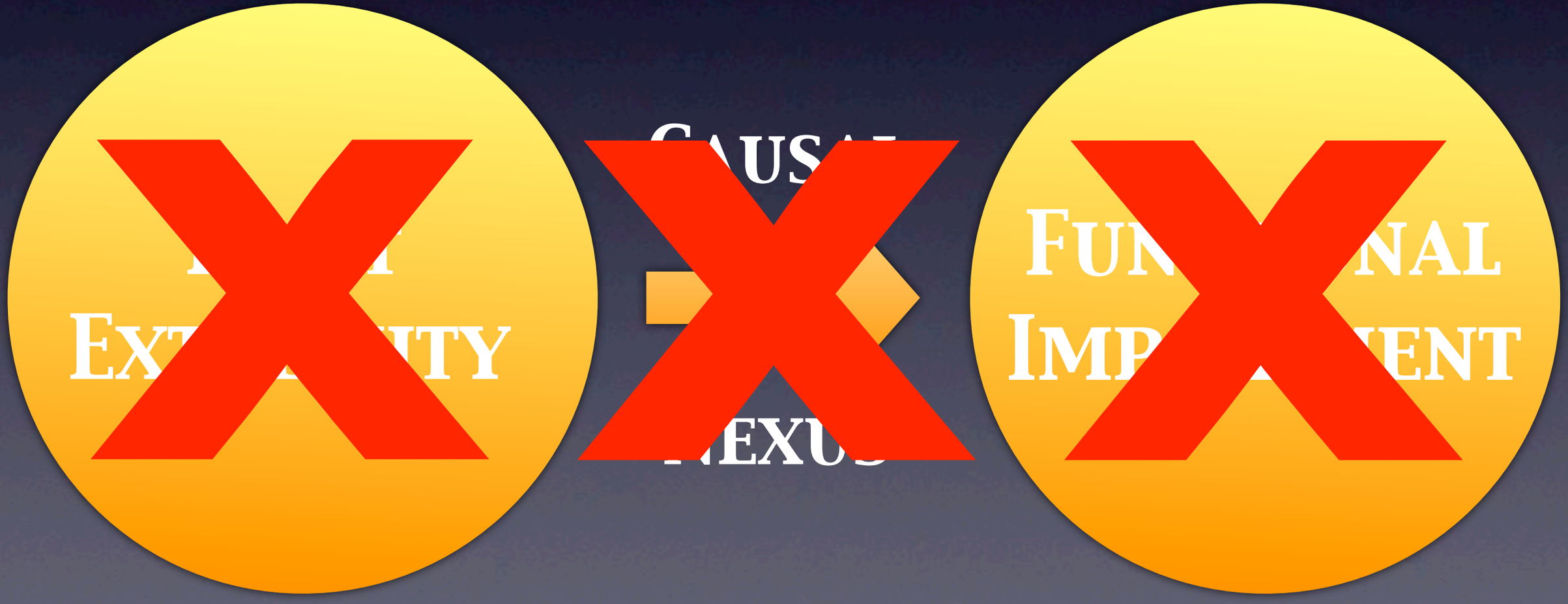
Trait Extremity

Nature

Functional Impairment

Severity

3 Goals of Treatment



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