



Case Studies on Personality Disorders

CASE #1:

A 25-year old single graduate student complains to his counselor of difficulty completing his course work and expresses concern about his relationships with women. He believes that his thesis topic may profoundly increase the level of understanding in his discipline and make him famous, but so far he has not been able to get past the third chapter. His advisor does not seem sufficiently impressed with his ideas, and the patient is furious at him, but also self-doubting and ashamed. He blames his advisor for his lack of progress, and thinks that he deserves more help with his grand idea, that his advisor should help with some of the research.

Axis II:

CASE #2:

The patient brags about his creativity and complains that other people are "jealous" of his insight. He is very envious of students that are moving along faster than he and regards them as "dull drones and ass-kissers." He prides himself on the brilliance of his class participation and imagines someday becoming a great professor.

He becomes rapidly infatuated with women and has powerful and persistent fantasies about each new woman he meets, but after several experiences of sexual intercourse feels disappointed and finds them dumb, clinging, and physically repugnant. He has many "friends" but they turn over very quickly, and no one relationship lasts very long. People get tired of his continual self-promotion and lack of consideration for them. For example, he was lonely at Christmas and insisted that his best friend stay in rather than visit his family. The friend refused, criticizing the patient's self-centeredness; the patient, enraged, decided never to see this friend again.

Axis II:



CASE #3:

A 21-year old male was interviewed by a psychiatrist while he was being detained in jail awaiting trial for attempted robbery. The patient had a history of multiple arrests for drug charges, robbery, and assault and battery.

Past history revealed that he had been expelled from junior high school for truancy, fighting, and generally poor performance in school. Following a car theft when he was 14 years old, he was placed in a juvenile detention center.

Subsequently he spent brief periods in a variety of institutions, from which he usually ran away. At times his parents attempted to let him live at home, but he was disruptive and threatened them with physical harm. After one such incident during which he threatened them with physical harm. After one such incident during which he threatened them with a knife, he was admitted to psychiatric hospital; but he signed himself out against medical advice, one day later.

The patient has never formed close relationships with family or friends or either sex. He is a loner and a drifter, and has not worked for more than two months at any one job in his life. He was recently terminated, because of fighting and poor attendance, from a vocational training program in which he had been enrolled for about three weeks.

Axis: II: