

Antisocial Personality Disorder

(Also known as ASPD)

References:

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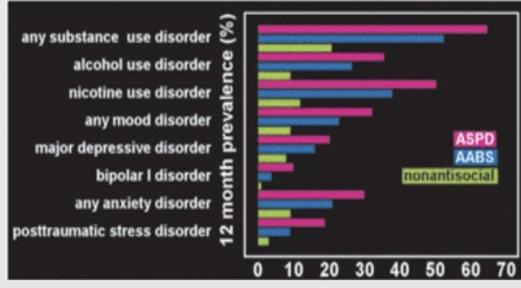
Mayo Clinic. (2019). *Antisocial personality disorder-symptoms and causes*. Mayo Clinic. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/antisocial-personality-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20353928>

V Nursing Interventions:

- Establish trust and a therapeutic relationship with the client.
 - Clients diagnosed with ASPD often experience hardships within the client's childhood that result in impaired trust. Promoting this relationship allows the client to be more open to discuss past trauma.
- Encourage the client to comply with cognitive and behavioral therapies.
 - Clients with ASPD can benefit from group therapies that focus on the promotion of positive interaction skills.
- Encourage client engagement in social skills.
 - Encouraging the client to utilize social skills will provide them with the ability to create better self-esteem and prepare for positive social situations.
- Establish limits and intervene in the client's manipulative behaviors.
 - Clients with ASPD engage in manipulative behaviors that can be deterred with the enforcement of boundaries. In return this provides the client with the proper skills needed to work on acceptable ways to interact and communicate properly.

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What is antisocial personality disorder (ASPD)?

It is a mental health disorder characterized by a pervasive pattern of disregard for and violation of the rights of others and by the central characteristics of deceit and manipulation.

Diagnosis: A person must have continued patterns of ignoring and violating the rights of others, starting at age 15. Including...

- Not following laws
- Deceitfulness
- Impulsivity and recklessness
- Irritability
- Lack of remorse

Intresting Facts

- 75% of prisoners are diagnosed with antisocial personality disorder.
- At age 20 antisocial behaviors usually peak.
- At age 45 antisocial behaviors usually begin to deminish drastically.
- Estimated .6% to 3.6% of adults experience antisocial personality disorder.
- Antisocial personality disorder is three times more common in men than women. (3% of men, 1% of women)

Symptoms

- Ignoring right and wrong.
- Lacking empathy.
- Lying to take advantage of others or situations.
- Not respecting others.
- Using charm or wit to manipulate others for personal gain or pleasure.
- Being extremely opinionated and not acknowledging other's opinions.
- Engaging in criminal behavior or not following rules.
- Being hostile, aggressive, violent, or threatening to others.
- Feeling no guilt about harming others.
- Engaging in dangerous activities without expressing regard for the safety of their self or others.
- Struggling with responsibilities including the ability to fulfill work or financial responsibilities.



Risk Factors:

- Unstable family dynamic in childhood.
- Violent or abusive childhood.
- Family history of ASPD.
- Diagnosis of childhood conduct disorder.



Treatments

ASPD can be challenging to form a treatment plan. Suggested treatment options include following a treatment plan and close follow-up over time. Each treatment option may depend on the patient and their symptoms as well as their willingness to participate.

Suggested in treatment plan: Psychotherapy may be used in the treatment plan which can contain anger/violence management, substance abuse treatment, and overall treatment for other mental health conditions. Focusing on Aaron Beck's Cognitive behavioral theory by utilizing the knowledge that the client's thoughts and feelings determine the client's behavior and helps to determine the severity of the disorder in that moment and in the future.

Medications: There are forms of medications that may be provided to assist with symptoms. There are no FDA approved medications for ASPD, but there may be medications prescribed for anxiety, depression, or aggression symptoms.