

# Antisocial Personality Disorder

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# Diagnosis

- There are no tests for ASPD. Healthcare providers will look at health history, perform a physical exam and assess symptoms. Although the condition may begin in childhood, it cannot be officially diagnosed before age 15. In order to be diagnosed with ASPD, a person must display a disregard and violation of the rights of others before age 15 (Cherry, 2020).
- Antisocial Personality Disorder is difficult to diagnose because of its similarity to other psychotic personality disorders.
  - Diagnosis is highly based on external behaviors (Seid et al., 2022).



# Diagnosis - Signs

- Physically aggressive behaviors
- blaming others for their problems
- breaking the law, destroying property
- manipulating or deceiving others, and showing no remorse for hurtful actions

(Cherry, 2020).



# Diagnosis - Symptoms

- Certain behavioral symptoms characterize ASPD
  - fire setting or cruelty to animals
  - difficulty with authority
  - Impulsivity
  - difficulty feeling empathy for others, and a disregard for the safety of self and others
  - irritability and aggression, a pattern of irresponsibility(Seid et al., 2022).



# Prevalence

- Antisocial Personality disorder(ASPD) is more common in young boys/men (Kivi, 2019).
- ASPD is prevalent among 3% of men and 1% of women (Kivi, 2019)
- When it comes to the key diagnosis of conduct disorder or oppositional defiant disorder, 3.6% of boys and 1.5 of girls are diagnosed. That is approximately 6.1% of the population (Rosa-Justicia et al., 2020).



# Risk Factors

## Risk factors

- Poor parenting (Kivi, 2019).
- Living in a household with alcoholics (Kivi, 2019).
- Genetic or family history of Antisocial Personality disorder (Kivi, 2019).
- Conduct disorder in childhood (Bjørnebekk et al., 2021).





## Theory – Cognitive Behavioral Theory of Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD)

- **Creator and when:**  
Dr. J.C. Prichard in the 19th century (Sargin et al., 2017)
- **Theory states:**  
The cognitive behavior of antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) consists of the cognitive thoughts accompanied by distressful emotions, such as anger or disgust. These thoughts are not the outcome of a voluntary process that is directive for the mind (Sargin et al., 2017).
- **Diseases/ Disorders associated:**  
Substance use disorders, anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, somatic symptoms, and impulse control problems (Sargin et al., 2017)
- **Other contributors to theory:**  
Jefferey Young - Schema concept (Sargin et al., 2017)



# Theory

## Schema Concept of Antisocial Personality Disorder by Jefferey Young



- **Schemas concept according to young:**

*Schemas* are an explanation, assumption, or strategy that explains and describes the individual, others, and the world. They are formed as a result of unmet emotional needs during childhood due to genetic predisposition and some environmental influences (Sargin et al., 2017).

- **Associated problems/ disorders of ASPD:**

Subjugation, self-sacrifice to others, needing approval, being pessimistic, emotionally inhibited, dependent on others, vulnerable to harm or illness, undeveloped self, entitlement, insufficient self-control, lack of self-discipline, and insecurity (Sargin et al., 2017).

- **Schema Therapy:**

The goal is to help those in need recognize and treat their emotional needs through a process of assessment, education, and treatment (Sargin et al., 2017).





# Interventions

There are no pharmacological treatments for Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD). However, some medication interventions can treat co-occurring conditions (Fisher et al., 2021).

- ❖ *Risperidone* is a medication prescribed to individuals with ASPD. Health care providers prescribe this medication because Risperidone is an antipsychotic that can treat co-occurring anger, a symptom of ASPD (Fisher et al., 2021).
- ❖ *Carbamazepine* is also prescribed to individuals with ASPD because it is an anticonvulsant that can treat co-occurring impulsivity common in individuals with ASPD (Fisher et al., 2021).





# Interventions Continued

- ❖ A healthcare provider may suggest Cognitive-Behavioral therapy as a treatment intervention for individuals with Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD). The reasoning behind this is that cognitive therapy allows the client to internalize how thoughts and feelings can influence each other and how these patterns can be changed (Masterson & Parker, 2019).
- ❖ The best treatment intervention for ASPD is early treatment of conduct disorder in childhood. This treatment intervention has some success because conduct disorder in children is a predicting factor for ASPD. This intervention is also a more efficacious and cost-effective option (Fisher et al., 2022).



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