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PSY342: Abnormal Psychology: OA

Professor Stephan Maret

March 5, 2020

### Question 1

According to Comer, Munchausen syndrome is a form of factitious disorder in which people create the appearance of illness. In the case of Munchausen syndrome by proxy, parents specifically mothers make up or produce illnesses in their child/children for their own selfish reasons. Parents who intentionally inflict such sickness and discomfort on their children usually have medical problems. Children are prone to developing this disorder in that the caretakers use a variety of techniques to prompt symptoms such as bleeding, asthma, comas, diarrhea, infections, etc., As a result of this disorder, children usually die at the hands of their parents. Comer states that the children who survive such abuse usually are permanently disfigured or physically impaired. In addition, the mothers who are responsible for creating such a disorder within their child are emotionally needy, craves attention,

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## Question 2

Conversion Disorder by definition is a disorder in which a person's bodily symptoms affect his/her voluntary motor and sensory functions, however, the symptoms are inconsistent with known medical diseases. According to Comer, conversion disorder is difficult to differentiate from an authentic medical condition. People with this disorder do not intentionally or consciously want to produce their symptoms. Conversion disorder produces symptoms such as glove anesthesia which causes the entire hand from the wrist to the fingertips to become numb. In addition, the disorder usually begins during late childhood and young adulthood, as stated by Comer. It also occurs twice as often in women than in men suddenly, or during moments of extreme stress. Somatic Disorder differs from conversion disorder in that people with this specific disorder are excessively stressed, concerned, and anxious, as stated by Comer. Therapy is required for symptoms of somatic disorder to disappear entirely. The symptoms last for a long time and patients experience chest pains, headaches, nausea, diarrhea, double vision or paralysis. In addition, people with somatic disorder usually go to and from doctors looking for some form of relief to their problems. However, both disorders have no exact known cause.