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Unit Four/Chapter Eight

**1. Explain Munchausen syndrome. Discuss populations prone to developing the disorder and causes of the disorder.**

The Munchausen syndrome is known as the factitious disorder. This disorder is based on individuals that fake their illness by doing things that are extreme. Comer (2016) mentions that, "People with factitious disorder feign or induce physical disorders, typically for the purpose of assuming the role of a sick person" (p. 252). The populations prone to developing this disorder are young adults and mainly women. The cause of this disorder is still unknown, but researchers believe that it may be derived from depression or a lack of social and parental support.

**2. Compare and contrast conversion disorder and somatic symptom disorder.**

Conversion disorder is based on one experiencing bodily symptoms that do not exist, and these symptoms stem from the person's voluntary and sensory functioning. Somatic symptom disorder is when a person excessively worries about bodily symptoms that disrupt their everyday lives. Comer (2016) mentions that, "The symptoms last longer but are less dramatic than those found in conversion disorder. In some cases, the somatic symptoms have no known cause; in others, the cause can be identified. Either way, the person's concerns are disproportionate to the seriousness of the bodily problems" (p. 256).

**3. Describe the two patterns of somatic symptoms disorder.**

The two patterns of somatic symptom disorder consist of somatization pattern and predominant pain pattern. The somatization pattern is when one experiences excessive bodily symptoms, and the predominant pain pattern is based on the pain that one experiences.

- 4. Watch the video “Self-Image and Body Dissatisfaction” below and then answer the following questions: What do you think are the important factors that contribute to Hayley’s concern with her physical appearance? Should girls younger than 18 be permitted to undergo surgery for breast augmentation? Why or why not? Who should make this decision? What are the factors that influence our sense of self-worth?**

The factors that contribute to Hayley’s concern would be based on her having low self-esteem as it relates to her appearance. I believe that girls under 18 should not be permitted to undergo surgery for breast augmentation, because their bodies are still developing, in addition to them not being able to make sound decisions until the age of 18. One of the factors that influence our self-worth would be one’s physical attractiveness that contributes to how one feels about themselves.

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Unit Four/Chapter Nine

**1. Describe the behaviors displayed by those with bulimia nervosa.**

The behaviors displayed by those with bulimia nervosa consist of binge eating followed by forceful vomiting. Comer (2016) mentions that, "In addition, people with this disorder repeatedly perform inappropriate compensatory behaviors, such as forcing themselves to vomit; misusing, laxatives, diuretics, or enemas; fasting; or exercising excessively" (p. 282).

**2. Identify the similarities and differences in anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa.**

The similarities with both anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa is that they both have a fear of being overweight. The differences between the two is that people with anorexia eat little food to the point of starvation. Individuals with bulimia nervosa binge eat and then force themselves to vomit, as well as using other ways to expunge the food.

**3. Some people think that society has become obsessed with thinness recently. Discuss three different types of societal pressure that could be used to support this claim.**

The three different types of societal pressures that support this claim would begin with society's negative connotations regarding being overweight, the obsession of female attractiveness, and the fact that beauty according to society equates to being thin or thick with a silhouette shape.

**4. Watch the video "Anorexia" below and then answer the following questions: What do you think are the underlying causes of David's eating disorder? Why has the incidence of eating disorders increased significantly in the last 50 years? Why are they more common among women than men?**

The underlying cause of David's eating disorder is low self-esteem based on his distorted self-image of himself. The eating disorder increased significantly in the last 50 years based on the Western cultural pressures that glorify being thin. This is more common in women than men, because some women are obsessed with being attractive in the Western culture. This attractiveness is associated with being thin.

## Reference

Comer, J. & Comer R.J. (2016). *Fundamentals of abnormal psychology (9<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*. New York: Worth Publishers.