

Katherine McCalla Johnson
Professor Dr. Steven Maret
Psychology 342: Psychopathology
May 2, 2023

Chapter 14 Question 2

There are four specific criteria for separation anxiety disorder according to the DSM-5. The child (or adult) may exhibit worry or even alarm when they are parted from a primary caregiver or an individual they have a strong bond with. Typically, their perturbation is extreme and particularly absurd in older age groups. Secondly, to be considered for this diagnosis, they must have at least three of the following symptoms: recurrent separation-triggered body symptoms, frequent separation-focused nightmares, constant opposition to sleep-aways, continued refusal to being independent, habitual objections to home departures, periodic fright of encountering separation-caused circumstances, chronic loss-related unease, and regular separation-related nervousness. Thirdly, the signs must last for at least 4 weeks in juveniles and more than 6 weeks for those 18 years or older. Finally, the patient must show serious anguish or impairment as a result of the separation.

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Chapter 14 Question 8

What makes attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) most problematic for children who have it is that most of the time they have trouble completing assigned tasks both in and out of school. They are in constant motion and exhibit poor judgment. Many have difficulty communicating their thoughts, struggle to learn new material and do not interact well with other youth. In general, they are known to frequently misbehave and additionally have some kind of mood or anxiety disorder. Fortunately, many of these juveniles will show a marked decrease in symptoms as they move through adolescence and into adulthood and their overactivity and restlessness seems to wane.

ADHD is most commonly treated with medication, usually a stimulant such as Ritalin. However, behavioral therapy or a combination of both is also utilized in children and adults. Although medication is very effective at helping children curb their aggression, perform well in their classes, resolve complicated issues, and focus on the tasks at hand; drug therapy does come with unpleasant side effects. The best approach appears to be the one where children receive behavioral therapy along with smaller doses of stimulants so that they might experience any side effects to a lesser degree.

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Chapter 14 Question 9

Ritalin, though very effective for treating attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, has come under a great deal of scrutiny as prescriptions for the drug have increased significantly in the last few decades. The primary concern is that the long term side effects on youth for Ritalin and other stimulants is not yet known. Instead, many children have responded well to operant conditioning type of treatments where a token economy system is utilized to reward kids who are attentive and exercise restraint inside a classroom environment. Secondly, the drug has chiefly been tested on white American minors so it is unclear whether it is as effective for other minority groups. Thirdly, it is suspected that these medications are being doled out to kids who do not truly fit the criteria for an ADHD diagnosis.

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Chapter 14 Question 11

There are a few non-biological factors which may cause many to be diagnosed with mild intellectual disability (ID). These individuals typically have an IQ between 50 and 70 and make up around 85% of all who experience some degree of ID (491). Experts in the field believe that there is enough evidence to link social and cultural causes to this group. Particularly, these children have been found to grow up in surroundings where there is little stimulation in their formative years. Many of these families are poor and offer their children very few learning experiences or interactions. Psychologists recommend that programs for early intervention be enacted where a professional enters the homes of these juveniles and help the families set up a much more enriching environment so that the youth may develop, do well in school and eventually lead productive lives as adults. This is often setup in tandem with early start schools so children might have the possibility of their diagnosis being reversed and their disability rectified.