

What are Sexual Disorders?

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- What is Gender Identity Disorder?
- What are Paraphilias?

What is "Normal" Sexual Behavior?

- Get into groups of 3-4
- Take the sexual behavior survey



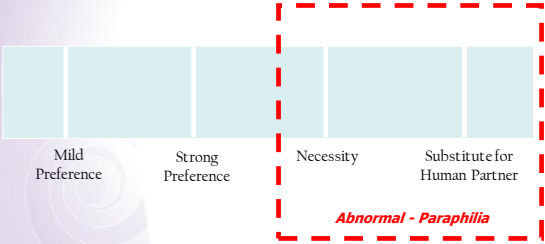
When evaluating the normality of a given sexual behavior, the context is extremely important

Many attitudes and behaviors about sex have changed in recent decades.

What is "Normal" Sexuality?

- Sexuality is a normal part of the human experience. However, the types of sexual behavior that are considered normal vary greatly within and among different cultures.
- In fact, it may be impossible to define "normal" sexuality.

Normal-Abnormal Continuum



Gender Identity Disorder

What makes you think you are a man?
Or a woman?

Does Anatomy Determine Gender Identity?

- *Gender Identity* is a personal sense of being male or female.
- Research indicates that gender identity is fixed in early childhood and is thereafter static.

Gender Identity Disorder



- This disorder (previously “transsexualism”) is present when a person’s physical gender is not consistent with the person’s sense of identity.
- People often report feeling trapped in a body of the wrong sex.

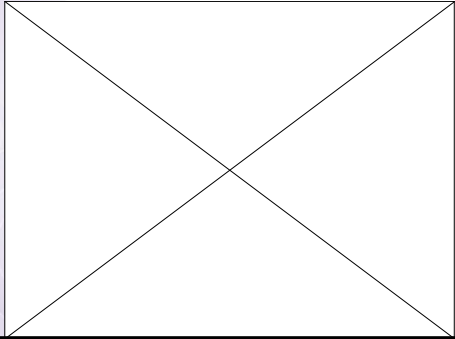
Damon

Damon was a 17-year-old male. For as long as he could remember, he had thought of himself as a girl. He began dressing himself in girl’s clothes at the age of 5 and continued cross-dressing into junior high school. Damon developed interests in cooking, knitting, and embroidering. His older brother often ridiculed him for not liking typical, “masculine” activities. He mostly associated with girls during this period and he remembered being strongly attracted to a boy in the first grade. His extremely effeminate behaviors made him the object of ridicule when he entered high school. Damon ran away and attempted suicide. When he meet with his therapist for the first time he stated, “I am a woman trapped in a man’s body and I would like to have surgery to become a woman.”

Is Damon a Transvestite? Or Homosexual?

- NO, Gender Identity Disorder is a disturbance in one's identity as male or female.
 - The primary goal is not sexual arousal, but to live their life openly as the opposite gender.
 - Gender reassignment surgery is an option for some.
- Gender identity is *independent* of sexual arousal patterns.
 - Example: A male-to-female transsexual may be sexually attracted to females, which technically makes the attraction homosexual.

Gender Identity Disorder



Causes of GID are not well understood, but it is believed that biological , psychological, and sociocultural factors seem important.

It is possible that this is the result of a biological or hormonal contribution during the prenatal period



Treatment

- The most common decision is to alter the anatomy to be physically consistent with the identity through surgery or hormone therapy
 - Gender reassignment surgery is very controversial
- Each person seeking this must qualify by demonstrating stability:
 - Psychologically
 - Socially
 - Financially



What if you are NOT sexually attracted to other adults?

Rather you are attracted to animals, non-human items or children?



Paraphilias

Inappropriate sexual arousal



Paraphilias are sometimes referred to as sexual deviations or “perversions.”

- Paraphilias include fantasies, behaviors, or sexual urges focusing on unusual objects, activities, or situations.
- Paraphilias include:
 - Sexual urges or sexual fantasies with non-human objects
 - Sexual behaviors with non-human objects
 - Sexual behaviors involving humiliation or suffering of oneself or another person
 - Adult sexual behavior that involves children or non-consenting adults

Some of common Paraphilias include:

- Exhibitionism
 - sexual gratification gained by exposing oneself to others
- Frotteurism
 - sexual urges are related to the touching or rubbing of their body against a non-consenting, stranger until ejaculation occurs.
- Sexual Masochism
 - Sexual pleasure is often gained from being hurt or humiliated.
- Sexual Sadism
 - Sexual gratification is gained from activities that harm. Or urges to harm another person.
 - People with this disorder require a partner to enact fantasies and may alternate sadistic and masochistic roles.
- Fetishism
 - A strong recurrent sexual attraction to non-living objects. This involves dependence upon the object for sexual gratification.

Pedophilia

- This involves an adult (16 years +) having uncontrollable urges towards sexually immature children.
 - Individuals with this pattern of arousal may be attracted to male children, female children or both.
- Their sexual preference and behavior vary significantly. Some do not act out their impulses, but have disturbing fantasies and inclinations to molest children.

Pedophilia

- The prevalence of child sexual abuse is alarmingly high.
 - Two-thirds of all sexual assault victims are children and adolescents.
 - Among children under 12, 4-year-olds are the most common victims. 14-year-olds are the most commonly abused over the age of 12.
 - Two-thirds of the victims are female and the perpetrators are male
 - 1/3 of the offenders are relatives of the abused children

I'm *LOVING* the child not hurting them!

Most child molesters are not physically abusive. This allows the abuser to rationalize their behavior as positive

- These individuals commonly explain their activities with excuses that the activities have "educational value" for the child, that the child feels "sexual pleasure" from the activities.
- Most people with this disorder have experience sexual abuse as children

Treatment

- Pedophiles can be "treated" but never cured, because their sexual preference has always been, and always will be, children. Their urges will always be present.
- The course of the disorder usually is chronic and lifelong in most patients, which is the reason that most treatment programs emphasize a relapse-prevention model

Next Class

- Psychotic Disorders
