

## What are Sexual Disorders?

### CLASS OBJECTIVES:

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

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## What is "Normal" Sexual Behavior?

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



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## 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.

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## Gender Identity Disorder

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

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### 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.

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### 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.



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### 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."

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### 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.

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### Why does this happen?

Research has not yet confirmed a cause, but it is widely believed that this is the result of a biological contribution during the prenatal period

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## 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



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What if you are NOT sexually attracted to other adults?

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

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## Paraphilias

Inappropriate sexual arousal



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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

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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, unfamiliar woman.
- Masochism
  - Sexual pleasure is often gained from being hurt or humiliated.
- Sadism
  - Sexual pleasure is gained from inflicting or receiving pain.
  - Some of the severe activities involved include burning, beating, stabbing, raping, and killing.
- Fetishism
  - People experience sexual urges and behavior which are associated with non-living objects.

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## Pedophilia

- This sexual deviance involves sexual attraction to children or very young adolescents.
- Individuals with this pattern of arousal may be attracted to male children, female children or both.
- An estimated 20 percent of American children have been sexually molested, making pedophilia the most common paraphilia.
  - Approx. 90% of abusers are male and 10% are female

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## 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

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- 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.
- Pedophilia usually begins in adolescence, although some individuals report they did not become aroused by children until middle age.
- Most people with this disorder have experience sexual abuse as children

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### 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

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Next Class

- Psychotic Disorders



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