



## Assessment and treatment of sexually abnormal behaviour

By Dr Harvey Gordon

Sexually abnormal behaviour may present in patients seen by virtually any psychiatrist including child and adolescent, general adult, learning disability, old age or forensic. Some patients suffer from a specific condition known as paraphilia, whilst in other cases the sexual behaviour may be part of or secondary to a co-morbid mental disorder such as personality disorder or mental illness.

This module has considered aspects of the assessment of sex offenders, making use of clinical evaluation, psychophysiological methods, and actuarial and structured risk assessment. Risk factors for sex offending have been outlined. Methods are also described for the treatment of patients with sexually abnormal behaviour and the legal and ethical issues involved. Being confronted by a patient who has committed sex offences induces feelings often negative in the psychiatrist which may lead to a patient being refused treatment from which he may benefit.

### References

- Bradford, J. M. W. and Pawlak, A. (1993)** Double-Blind Placebo Crossover Study of Cyproterone Acetate in the Treatment of the Paraphilias. *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*, **22**, 383–402 [[Abstract](#)]
- Brooks-Gordon, B., Bilby, C. and Wells, H. (2006)** A Systematic Review of Psychological Interventions for Sexual Offenders. 1. Randomised Control Trials. *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry*, **17**, (3) 442–446 [[Abstract](#)]
- Coleman, E. (1991)** Compulsive Sexual Behaviour: New Concepts and Treatments. *Journal of Psychology and Human Sexuality*, **4**, 37–52 [[Abstract](#)]
- Cooper, A. J., et al (1990)** A Female Sex Offender with Multiple Paraphilias: A Psychologic, physiologic (Laboratory Sexual Arousal and Endocrine Case Study. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, **35**, 334–337
- Cormier, B. M and Cooper, I. (1982)** Intergenerational Transmission of Incest. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, **27**, 231–235
- Crepault, C. and Couture, M. (1980)** Men's Erotic Fantasies. *Archives of Sexual Behaviour*, **9**, 565–580 [[Abstract](#)]
- Deu, N. and Edelman, R. J. (1997)** The Role of Criminal Fantasy in Predatory and Opportunistic Sex Offending. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, **12**, 18–29 [[Abstract](#)]
- Furby, L., et al (1989)** Sex Offender Recidivism: A Review. *Psychological Bulletin*. **105**, 3–30 [[Abstract](#)]
- Glasser, M. (1998)** On Violence: A Preliminary Communication. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, **79**, 887–902

- Gordon, H. and Grubin, D. (2004)** Psychiatric Aspects of the Assessment and Treatment of Sex Offenders. *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*, **10**, 73–80 [[Abstract](#)]
- Grubin, D. (1994)** Sexual Murder. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **165**, 624–629
- Grubin, D. and Madsen, L. (2006)** Accuracy and Utility of Post-Conviction Polygraph Testing of Sex Offenders. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **188**, 479–483 [[Abstract](#)]
- Hanson, R. K. and Bussiere, M. R. (1996)** Predictors of Sexual Offender Recidivism: A Meta-Analysis. User Report 1996–04. Ottawa. Department of Solicitor-General of Canada.
- Hanson, R. K. and Bussiere, M. R. (1998)** Predicting Relapse. A Meta-Analysis of Sexual Offender Recidivism Studies. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, **66**, 348–362 [[Abstract](#)]
- Kennedy, H. G. and Grubin, D. H. (1992)** Patterns of Denial in Sex Offenders. *Psychological Medicine*, **22**, 191–196
- Lang, R. A. (1993)** Neuropsychological Deficits in Sexual Offenders: Implications for Treatment. *Sexual and Marital Therapy* **8** (2) 181–200
- Losel, F. and Schmucker, M. (2005)** The Effectiveness of Treatment for Sexual Offenders: A Comprehensive Meta Analysis. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, **1**, 117–146 [[Abstract](#)]
- MacCulloch, M. J., et al (1983)** Sadistic Fantasy, Sadistic Behaviours and Offending. *British Journal of Psychiatry*, **143**: 20–29
- Marshall, W. L., et al (1991)** Treatment Outcome with Sex Offenders. *Clinical Psychology Review* **11**, 465–485 [[Abstract](#)]
- McCormack, A., et al (1992)** An Exploration of Incest in the Childhood Development of Serial Rapists. *Journal of Family Violence*, **7**, 219–228 [[Abstract](#)]
- Ortmann, J. (1980)** The Treatment of Sexual Offenders, Castration and Anti hormone Therapy. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, **3**, 443–451 [[Abstract](#)]
- Pearson, H. J., et al (1992)** Treatment of a Compulsive Paraphiliac with Bupropion. *Annals of Sex Research*, **5** (4) 239–246 [[Abstract](#)]
- Prentky, R. A. and Burgess, A. W. (2000)** Forensic Management of Sexual Offenders. London. Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers
- Quinsey, V. L., et al (1995)** Actuarial Prediction of Sexual Recidivism. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, **5**, 435–448
- Rice, M. E., et al (1990)** A Follow-up of Rapists Assessed in a Maximum Security Psychiatric Facility. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, **5**, 435–448 [[Abstract](#)]
- Rosler, R., et al (1988)** Sexual Homicide: Patterns and Motives. Lexington, MA. Lexington Books
- Saleh, F. M. (2004)** Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors and the Paraphilias. *American Academy of Psychiatry and Law*, Newsletter September pp 12–13
- Stein, D. J., et al (1992)** Serotonergic Medications for Sexual Obsessions, Sexual Addictions and Paraphilias. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, **53** (8) 267–271