

The Petersens sought treatment twice more over the next 8 years. On both occasions the underlying issue was again Paul's ambivalence about further committing himself to the relationship (buying a house, having children). Paul had a recurrence of erectile problems and, in addition, a complaint of premature ejaculation on the rare occasions when he could maintain an erection intravaginally. During the treatment, greater attention was given to their relationship rather than simply focusing on the sexual problem. At last report they had two children, had bought a house in the suburbs, and the sexual problem had again been resolved.

THE BULLY

J.P. is a muscular, 24-year-old man who presented himself to the admitting office of a state hospital. He told the admitting physician that he had taken 30 200-mg tablets of chlorpromazine in the bus on the way over to the hospital. After receiving medical treatment for the "suicide attempt," he was transferred to the inpatient ward.

On mental status examination, the patient told a fantastic story about his father's being a famous surgeon who had a patient die in surgery. The patient's husband then killed J.P.'s father. J.P. stalked his father's murderer several thousand miles across the United States and, when he found him, was prevented from killing him, at the last moment, by the timely arrival of his 94-year-old grandmother. He also related several other intriguing stories involving his \$64,000 sports car, which had a 12-cylinder diesel engine, and about his children, two sets of identical triplets. All these stories had a grandiose tinge, and none of them could be confirmed. The patient claimed that he was hearing voices, as on the TV or in a dream. He answered affirmatively to questions about thought control, thought broadcasting, and other unusual psychotic symptoms; he also claimed depression. He was oriented and alert and had a good range of information except that he kept insisting that it was the Iranians (not the Iraqis) who had invaded Kuwait (referring to the Gulf War that took place in 1992–1993). There was no evidence of any associated features of mania or depression, and the patient did not seem either elated, depressed, or irritable when he related these stories.

It was observed on the ward that J.P. bullied the other patients and took food and cigarettes from them. He was very reluctant to be

discharged, and whenever the subject of his discharge was brought up, he renewed his complaints about "suicidal thoughts" and "hearing voices." It was the opinion of the ward staff that the patient was not truly psychotic, but merely feigned his symptoms whenever the subject of his discharge was brought up. They thought that he wanted to remain in the hospital primarily so that he could bully the other patients and be a "big man" on the ward.

Discussion of "The Bully"

Although this patient would have us believe that he is psychotic, his story, almost from the start, seems to conform to no recognizable psychotic syndrome. That his symptoms are not genuine is confirmed by the observation of the ward staff that he seemed to feign them whenever the subject of discharge was brought up.

Why does this fellow try so hard to act crazy? His motivation is not to achieve some external incentive, such as, for example, avoiding the draft, as would be the case in Malingering; his goal of remaining a patient is understandable only with knowledge of his individual psychology (the suggestion that he is motivated to assume the sick role because he derives satisfaction from being the "big man" on the ward). The diagnosis is, therefore, Factitious Disorder With Predominantly Psychological Signs and Symptoms (DSM-IV, p. 474).

TOUGHING IT OUT

Mindy Markowitz is an attractive, stylishly dressed, 25-year-old, art director for a trade magazine who comes to an anxiety clinic after reading about the clinic program in the newspaper. She is seeking treatment for "panic attacks" that have occurred with increasing frequency over the past year, often 2 or 3 times a day. These attacks begin with a sudden intense wave of "horrible fear" that seems to come out of nowhere, sometimes during the day, sometimes waking her from sleep. She begins to tremble, is nauseated, sweats profusely, feels as though she is choking, and fears that she will lose control and do something crazy, like run screaming into the street.

Mindy remembers first having attacks like this when she was in high