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“Believe me I’m not lying” the issues of malingering and deception in mental health patients

Malingering is fabricating or exaggerating the symptoms of mental or physical disorders for a variety of “secondary gain” motives, which may include financial compensation (often tied to fraud); avoiding school, work or military service; obtaining drugs; getting lighter criminal sentences; or simply to attract attention or sympathy. Malingering is different from somatization disorder and factitious disorder. Failure to detect actual cases of malingering imposes a substantial economic burden on the health care system, and false attribution of malingering imposes a substantial burden of suffering on a significant proportion of the patient population.

In today’s lecture we will learn how to detect malingering.

1. Describe malingering and deception in mental health patients.
2. Differentiate the various forms of malingering/deception in mental health patients.
3. Explain clinical skills needed to detect malingering and deception in mental health patients.
4. Review objective tests used for detection of malingering in mental health patients.

Biography

Fischetto is a Licensed Psychologist with a specialty in Forensic Psychology. He has been doing forensic evaluations for over 25 years and has conducted thousands of evaluations. He is a Diplomate in Forensic Psychology with the American Board of Psychological Specialties. Dr. Fischetto is also an adjunct professor in psychological testing and assessments, a consulting Psychologist at the Reading Hospital, and has a full-time private practice in counseling, consulting, and forensic evaluations for criminal and civil cases

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