

AS01-03 - CRITICISMS OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN DSM V

R.T.Segraves

Psychiatry, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, USA

Introduction: Current diagnostic criteria for sexual dysfunctions in the ICD 10 and DSM IV have been criticized for their lack of precision and failure to differentiate normal variation in sexual function from disordered sexual behavior requiring medical intervention.

Objectives: The objective of this presentation is to review the rationale for proposed changes in diagnostic criteria in DSM V.

Aims: The aims of this presentation are to review proposed changes in diagnostic criteria for sexual disorders which set severity and duration criteria.

Methods: Evidence for proposed diagnostic thresholds will be presented.

Results: Proposed new definitions will incorporate severity (present of 75% of occasions) and duration (present for 6 months) criteria.

Conclusions: Clinicians have criticized these diagnostic thresholds because many patients seeking treatment for sexual problems will not meet diagnostic criteria.

There are no perfect diagnostic thresholds. One always has to balance the risk of false positives (misclassifying normals as ill) versus the risk of false negatives (misclassifying the ill as normal).