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


