



CONDUCT DISORDERS: Straight talk from Maria

By

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Conduct disorder is a serious condition in which the person with constantly violates the rights of others or violates society rules.

Often children with conduct disorder are just believed to be difficult or problem children when they really have a mental illness.

There are several signs of conduct disorder including aggression toward animals or people, destroying property, lying or stealing, continually breaking major rules or laws.

- Aggression toward animals or people includes being cruel or harming animals. It also includes hurting people sometimes with a weapon or picking fights. Bullying can be a sign of this disorder.
- Destroying property includes ruining other people's things—sometimes by setting them on fire.
- Lying or stealing includes taking other people's things and feeling no guilt. Constantly lying can be a sign of conduct disorder. Stealing- either shoplifting, breaking into homes or taking things from family members or friends- is a sign of conduct disorder.
- Finally breaking laws or rules includes regularly committing felonies, but also things like continually breaking curfew, running away from home or skipping school. If these issues manifest before age 13, it is a very big indicator of conduct disorder.

Treatment and Outcomes

Oppositional defiant disorder can lead to conduct disorder if the ODD is very serious and not treated and in many ways ODD and conduct disorder are similar. Conduct disorder is like a more serious form of ODD. The main difference is that conduct disorder is more violent and with conduct disorder safety can be a concern.

Conduct disorder often is accompanied by other disorders such as attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder. Drug or alcohol abuse is also often very common with this disorder.

Often about one-third of children with this disorder will exhibit symptoms of this that carry into adulthood. Often, however, even if the conduct disorder goes away the child

will grow up to have other mental health problems such as depression, anxiety or addiction.

About a fifth of people with conduct disorder or severe oppositional defiant disorder develop antisocial personality. People with this disorder don't respect the rights of others, can be violent and often have problems in society. They often have problems with the law and dealing with other people.

Treating conduct disorder can be very tough. Therapy is the main component of treating this and often takes a long time because it takes a long time to change someone's behaviors and the patient may be resistant to making these changes. Treatment may also involve medication.

Diagnosing and treating conduct disorder early and correctly is key because it can turn into a serious problem and will become harder to treat and deal with as people grow older. Treating conduct disorder will not only benefit the child but society as a whole.