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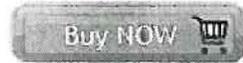
Complex Trauma, Complex Reactions: Assessment and Treatment.

By Courtois, Christine A.

Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training. 2004 Win Vol 41(4)
412-425

Abstract

Complex trauma occurs repeatedly and escalates over its duration. In families, it is exemplified by domestic violence and child abuse and in other situations by war, prisoner of war or refugee status, and human trafficking. Complex trauma also refers to situations such as acute/chronic illness that requires intensive medical intervention or a single traumatic event that is calamitous. Complex trauma generates complex reactions, in addition to those currently included in the DSM-IV (American Psychiatric Association, 1994) diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This article examines the criteria contained in the diagnostic conceptualization of complex PTSD (CPTSD). It reviews newly available assessment tools and outlines a sequenced treatment based on accumulated clinical observation and emerging empirical substantiation. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2007 APA, all rights reserved)

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