

Obsessive spectrum disorder over the lifecycle

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Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) is characterized by intrusive, disturbing thoughts, impulsive or images that cause anxiety and compulsive rituals serve to reduce anxiety or neutralize obsessions. Altered cortico-striato-thalamic circuitry appears to mediate repetitive thoughts and behaviors. Such repetitive thoughts and behaviors domain of symptoms have gained much attention as it cuts through in different phases of life, pediatric OCD, adolescent-onset OCD, adult OCD. It also affects both genders at different life incidences. More recently researchers have observed the association of different syndromes that can be grouped under OCD-related disorders ; this has recently encompassed not only the commonly recognized disorders but interestingly developmental disorders like autism. Thus, it appears that studying OCD over the lifecycle is taking novel trends and advances that will definitely have implications on its classification and treatment methods.