

# Aggression Management in Primary Care





#### Speaker:

#### Molly Scharf MD

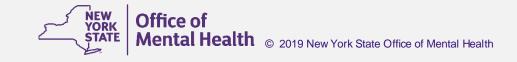
Rochester Institute of Technology Student Health Center





# Disclosures

"Neither I nor my spouse/partner has a relevant financial relationship with a commercial interest to disclose."





#### Remember Cliff?



# NICHQ Vanderbilt Assessment Scale:

Parent information

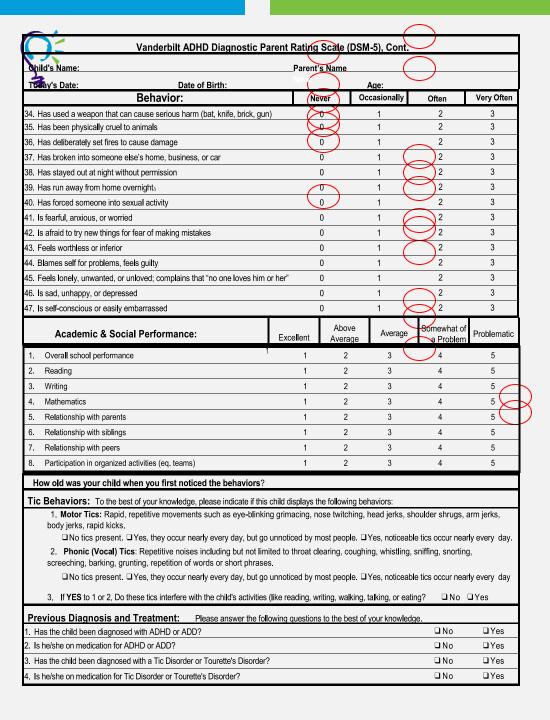


#### Vanderbilt ADHD Diagnostic Parent Rating Scale

			( )			
Child's Name:		Parent's Na	me:			
Today's Date: Date of Birth: Age:						
<b>Directions:</b> Each rating should be of When completing this form, please the			ge of your ch	ild .		
Is this evaluation based on a time	when the child:   was o	n medication	not on med	cation [] r	ot sure	
	Behavior:		Never	Occasionally	Often	Very Often
Does not pay attention to details homework	or makes careless mistakes w	rith, for example,	•	1	2	3
<ol><li>Has difficulty keeping attention to</li></ol>	what needs to be done			1	2	3
3. Does not seem to listen when sp	ooken to directly		0	1	2	3
<ol> <li>Does not follow through on instru failure to understand)</li> </ol>	uctions and fails to finish activit	ies (not due to refusal or	(0)	1	2	3
<ol><li>Has difficulty organizing tasks ar</li></ol>	nd activities		<b>*</b>	1	2	3
6. Avoids, dislikes, or does not war	nt to start tasks that require onc	joing mental effort	(0)	1	2	3
7. Loses things necessary for tasks	or activities (toys, assignment	s, pencils, or books)	9	1	2	3
8. Is easily distracted by noises or	other stimuli		$\sim$	1	2	3
9. Is forgetful in daily activities				1	2	3
10. Fidgets with hands or feet or sq	uirms in seat		( <u>0</u> )	1	2	3
11. Leaves seat when remaining se	eated is expected		<del>\</del>	1	2	3
12. Runs about or climbs too much	when remaining seated is expe	ected		1	2	3
<ol><li>Has difficulty playing or beginning</li></ol>	ng quiet play games			1	2	3
14. Is "on the go" or often acts as if	"driven by a motor"	$\overline{}$	(0)	1	2	3
15. Talks too much			0	1	2	3
16. Blurts out answers before quest	ions have been completed	$\sim$	0	1	2	3
17. Has difficulty waiting his or her to	urn		0	1	2	3
18. Interrupts or intrudes in on othe	rs conversations and/or activities	es	٥	1	( 2 )	3
19. Argues with adults			( 0 )	1	2	3
20. Loses temper			<del>-</del>	1	2	3
21. Actively defies or refuses to cor	nply with adult's requests or rul	es	0	1	2	3 🔀
22. Deliberately annoys people			0	1	2	3
23. Blames others for his or her mi	stakes or misbehaviors		0	1	2	3
24. Is touchy or easily annoyed by	others		0	1	2	3
25. Is angry or resentful			Q	1	2	3
<ol><li>Is spiteful and wants to get ever</li></ol>	1.		( 0 )	1	~	3
<ol> <li>Bullies, threatens, or intimida</li> </ol>	ites others		0	1	(_2)	3
28. Starts physical fights			0	1	~2	3
<ol> <li>Often lies to get out of trouble, o others)</li> </ol>	btain goods or favors, or to avo	oid obligations (ie, "cons"	0	1	2	3
<ol><li>Is often truant from school (skip</li></ol>	os school) without permission			1	2	3
31. Is physically cruel to people			(0)	1	2	3
<ol><li>Has stolen things that have val</li></ol>	lue			1	( )	3
<ol><li>Deliberately destroys other's pro</li></ol>	perty		( 0 )	1	$\smile_2$	3

#### NICHQ Vanderbilt **Assessment** Scale:

**Parent** information







#### **Cliff is back: Vanderbilt**

Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 1-9: Inattention	2
Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 10-18:  Hyperactivity	1
Total Symptom Score for questions 1-18: Inattention and hyperactivity	3
Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 19-26:  Oppositional	5 > 4 = ODD
Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 27-40:  Conduct	0
Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 41-47:  Anxiety and depression	0
Total number of questions scored 2 or 3 in questions 48-55:  Performance	8
Average Performance Score:	

4373263299 Cliff:Pretreatment
STONY BROOK
INIVERSITY SEPPONECTO VI
MEDICAL CENTER  Supped Pharmacotheapy for Improved Self-Control among Youth
Staff Entries
A. Child's First Name:  B. Child's Last Name:  Site Project Participant
S,B,K, 0,2,
C. Your First Name: D. Your Last Name: Visit Type Visit #
E. Your Relationship to Child:    Month   Day   Year
Mother ☐ Father ☐ Grandmother ☐ Grandfather ☐ Other ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Retrospective Modified Overt Aggression Scale (R-MOAS)
Instructions: These questions focus on difficulties with emotions and behavior. Please indicate how many times each of these behaviors occurred in the <u>PAST WEEK</u> .
Verbal Incidents: 0 - 1 times 2 - 4 times 5 or more times
1. How many times did your child shout angrily, curse, or insult people but then stopped quickly?
2. How many times did your child shout angrily, curse, or insult people in a repetitive, out-of-control way during episodes that lasted less than five minutes?
or insult people in a repetitive, out-of-control way during episodes that lasted less than five minutes?
3. How many times did your child shout angrily, curse,
or insult people in a repetitive, out-of-control way during episodes that lasted more than five minutes?
4. How many times did your child threaten to hurt someone?
5. Other verbal incidents (Please describe):
Incidents Toward Other People: None 1 - 2 times 3 - 4 times 5 or more times
Incidents I oward Other People: None 1 - 2 times 3 - 4 times 5 or more times  1. How many times did your child act like he/she
was about to hit somebody or took a swing at
someone without actually hitting another person?
2. How many times did your child hit someone with hands or an object, kick, push, scratch or
pull hair, without causing real injury?
3. How many times did your child do any of the things in Item 2 and caused some mild injury
(bruises, sprains, welts, etc.)?
4. How many times did your child do any of the things in Item 2 and caused serious injury
(fracture, lost tooth, loss of consciousness, etc.)?
Other incidents toward other people (Please describe):

4229263299  Site Project Visit Type Visit #  1S1B1K1 10121	Month	RMOAS-P — Page 2 of 2 Subject # Initials I I I I I I I I I I
Incidents Involving Property:  1. How many times did your child slam a door or cabinet, rip clothing, or knock something over in anger?	0 . 2	4 times 5 or more times
himself or herself?  5. Other incidents in which your child acted harmfu	ully toward himself or herself (P	24

4373263299 Cliff:Pretreatment
STONY BROOK  ON UNIVERSITY  MEDICAL CENTER  Stapped Pta maccithea py for Improved Self-Control among Youth
A. Child's First Name:  B. Child's Last Name:  Site Project Participant  S_B_K, 0_2  C. Your First Name:  D. Your Last Name:  Visit Type Visit #  L. Your Relationship to Child:  Month Day Year  L. L. J.
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1. How many times did your child act like he/she was about to hit somebody or took a swing at someone without actually hitting another person?
36

Ţ	4229263299  Site Project Visit Type Visit #   Month Day Y    S   B   K     0   2	RMOAS-P Page 2 of 2 ear   Subject # Initials
	Incidents Involving Property: None 1 - 2 times	3 - 4 times 5 or more times
ht = 2	How many times did your child slam a door or cabinet, rip clothing, or knock something over in anger?	04 06
Category weight =	2. How many times did your child throw things down, kick furniture, or otherwise misuse things angrib but did not break them?	0 12
tegory	How many times did your child break things,     smash windows, or damage or deface	
Cai	4. How many times did your child set a fire or throw things at people in order to hurt them?	0 12 0 18
	Other incidents involving property (Please describe):	1
		20
Category weight = 3	1. How many times did your child pick at or scratch his or her skin, pull out hair, or hit himself or herself while upset or angry?	
Cat	4. How many times did your child severely injure himself or herself, or try to kill himself or herself?	24 36
	5. Other incidents in which your child acted harmfully toward himself or hers	elf (Please describe):
		0
		Staff Use:
		7 VE
		PH 36
		PR
		Total= 63



# Cliff - clinical summary

- assessment completed, including standardized rating scales
- Diagnosis: ADHD with severe aggression
- No additional co-morbidities
- No history of trauma, bullying or substance use
- ADHD symptoms are well controlled on stimulant medication but remaining ODD symptoms



# What would you do next?



### **Psychoeducation Pearls**

- Present your understanding that the child's "system is on overload" and what is underpinning the aggression
- "No fault" position with parents and child
- Parents need support but also strategies
- Tension often builds up to a "red zone": encourage observing the precipitants, evolution, places of detouring
- Positive approach
  - Positive reinforcement
  - "Catch the child being good"
  - Don't reward negative behaviors unwittingly





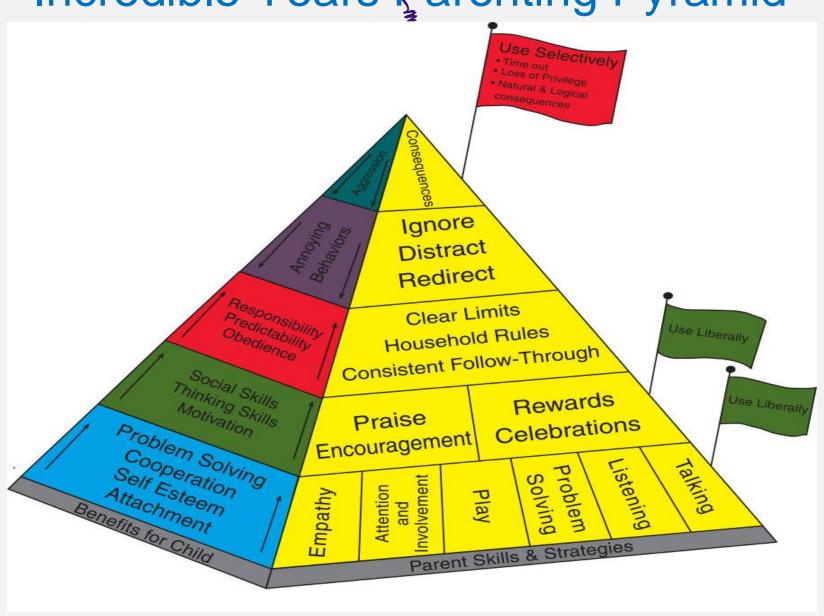
#### School

- Make contact (or ensure parents do) with school point person
- Obtain information and identify resources that school may be able to provide
- 504 or IEP

# Psychosocial Treatment First Line: Connect before you Correct!

- Provide or assist the family in obtaining evidence based psychotherapy (first line).
- Assist and support in maintaining consistent behavioral strategies
- Generally referred to as
  - parent management training or behavior management
  - Coping skills for child
- For severe situations consider more intensive or "wraparound" services

Incredible Years Parenting Pyramid





#### Now We Get to Medication Management: Treat the Underlying Condition First

- Cliff's ADHD symptoms well managed
- No other comorbidities
- Level of aggression severe and major life consequences appear likely
  - Injured mother
  - Frequent episodes of verbal and physical aggression at home, school
  - Removed from after school program





# Poll # What would you do next?

- A) Switch to a different class of stimulant
- B) Add an alpha agonist
- C) Start Risperidone
- D) Increase dose of Concerta
- E) Call Project Teach





## Optimize Stimulant

- MTA showed that ODD symptoms often responded to higher doses of stimulants
- Concerta increased to 72 mg
- Parents called 3 days later to report that he had become much more irritable and aggression worse



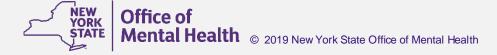
# Poll #2 :Now what would you do?

- A) Switch to a different class of stimulant
- B) Add an alpha agonist
- C) Start Risperidone
- D) Call Project Teach



# Clinical Judgment

- Switch stimulant class
  - Pros: lower side effect burden, will see response immediately (or not)
  - Con: has responded well to MPH prep and low likelihood that the aggression will respond better to an AMP preparation
- Start alpha agonist
  - Pros: lower side effect burden
  - Con: less likely to be effective, may take weeks to see effect
- Start Risperidone
  - Pros: more likely to be effective, quickly
  - Cons: higher side effect burden, especially weight gain, need lab monitoring





Cliff was prescribed a low dose of Risperdal, initially 0.25 mg hs and later increased to 0.25 mg bid



#### Cliff 2 weeks later



4373263299 POST TREATMENT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER	py for Improved Self-Cott/fol among Yearth
A, Child's First Name:  C - / f -   D. Your Last Name:  C. Your First Name:  D. Your Last Name:	Stall Entitles Site Profesion  S.B.K. U.Z.  Visit Type Visit #
E. Your Reictionship to Child:  Mother	1) (/1 1 1/1 1 1
Retrospective Modified Overt Aggression	
Instructions: These questions focus on difficulties with emotions and indicate how many times each of these behaviors occur	
Verbal Incidents: 0 - 1 times	2 - 4 times 5 or more times
1. How many times did your child shout angrily, curse, or insult people but then stopped quickly?  2. How many times did your child shout angrily, curse, or insult people in a repetitive, out-of-controt way during episodes that lasted less than five minutes?  3. How many times did your child shout angrily, curse, or insult people in a repetitive, out-of-controt way during episodes that lasted more than five minutes?  4. How many times did your child threater to hurt compone?  5. Other verbal incidents (Pleasa describe):	2 2 4 3 6 8
Incidents Toward Other People: None 1-2 times	3 - 4 times S or more times
1. How many times did your child act like he/she was about to hit samebody or took a swing at someone without actually hiting enother person?	8 12 16 24 24 36 32 48



	NMCAS P   Page 2 of P
Incidents Involving Property: None	1 - 2 times 3 - 4 times 5 or more times
1. How many times did your shild stam a door or cabinet, rip clothing, or knock something over in anger?	<b>2 4 6</b>
over in anger? 00  2. How many times alld your shild throw things down, kick furniture, or otherwise misuse things angrify but did not break then? 00  3. How many times did your shild break things snash wincows, or damage or deface property on purpose? 00	4 0 8 0 12
3. How many times did your shill break things. smash winows, or damage or deface property on purpose?	6 12 18
4. How many times did your child set a fire or throw things at people in order to hurt them?  0	. 6 8 0 16 0 24
Other incidents involving property (Picase describe):	
	1 - 2 times 3 - 4 times 5 or more times
1, How many times did your child blok at or scratch his or her skin, put out heir, or he himself or herself while upset or angry?	0 3 0 6 0 9
scratch his or her skin, put out heir, or hit himself or herself while upset or angry?  2. How many times did your shild bang his or her head, tit his or her fish into the wall, or throw himself or herself on the floor?  3. How many times did your shild set, hadse, or burn himself or nesself on purposs?	0 6 0 12 0 18
3. How many times did your child old, bruise, or burn himself or nesself on purpose?	0 9 0 18 0 27
4. How many limes did your child severely injure himself or herself, or try to kill himself or herself?	0 12 0 24 0 36
5. Other holdents in which your child acted harmfully toward his	
	Staff Use:
	VF
	РН
	PR
	SF
T.	Total





POST TREATMENT
437/3263299  STONY BROOK  INIVERSITY  MEDICAL CENTER  **Stepard Plantage of the Improved on the Computation of the Improved of the Improved on
A. Child's First Name:  8. Child's Last Name:  Staff Entries  Staff Entries  Staff Entries  Staff Entries  Staff Entries  Staff Entries
C. Your first Name: D. Your Last Name: visit tent visit tent
E. Your Relationship to Child: Month Day Year
○ Mother ○ Fa hor ○ Grandmother ○ Grandfather ○ Other □ □ □ □ □ □ □
Retrospective Modified Overt Aggression Scale (R-MOAS)
Instructions: These cuestions focus on difficulties with emotions and behavior. Ptease indicate how many times each of these behaviors occurred in the <u>PAST WEEK</u> .
Verbal Incidents: 9 - 1 times 2 - 4 times 5 or more times
1. How many times did your child shoul angrity, curse, or insult people out then stopped guickly?
2. How many limes did your child shour angoly, curse, or insuit people in a repetitive, but-of-control way during episodes that lasted less than five minutes?
3. How many times did your child shout angrily, curse, or insuit people in a repetitive, out-of-central way during episodes that lasted <u>nore than five minutes?</u>
4. How many times did your child threaten to hun someone?
Other verbal incidents (Please describe):
7
Incidents Toward Other People: None 1-2 times 3-4 times 5 or more times
1. How many times did your child act like he/she was about to hit somabody or tack a swing at
someone without actually hitting another person?
4. How many times did your child do any of the things in Item 2 and caused serious injury (fracture, lost tooth, loss of consciousness, etc.)?
5. Other incidente toward other people (Please describe):
12



	#229263299  Site Project Visit Type Visit #   Month Doy Year   Subject ii   Inflicts   ISTBCK   1012   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1
1	ncidents Involving Property: None 1-2 times 3-4 times 5 or more times
	. How many limes did your child stam a door or cabinet, rip clothing, or knock something over in enger?
2	thrus many times did your child throw things down, kick fundiure, or otherwise misuse things angily but did not break then?
3	How many times did your child areak things, smash windows, or demage or deface properly on purpose?
4	throw things at people in order to hurt them?
83	5. Other holdents involving property (Pleass dosaibe).
1	ncidents Directed Toward Self: None 1 - 2 times 3 - 4:times 5 or more times  1. How many times did your child pick at or express his or her skin, pull out hair, or his times for his or her skin, pull out hair, or his times for his or her skin, pull out hair, or his times for his or her skin, pull out hair, or his
0 2 3 4	timself or herself while upset or angry?
3	8. How many times did your child out, bruise, or burn himself or herself on purpose?
4	i. How many times did your child severe/y injure himself or herself, or try to kill himself or herself?
5	<ol> <li>Other incidents in which your child exted harmfully toward himself or herself (Please describe):</li> </ol>
	0
	Slaff Use: Vr
	PH 12
	SF
	Total = 31
ſ.	10/4



# What would you do next?



#### Poll#3

- A) Switch from Concerta to an amphetamine based stimulant
- B) Add an alpha agonist
- C) Increase Risperidone to 0.5 mg BID
- D) Call Project Teach



#### Cliff's Risperdal was increased to 0.5 BID



#### Cliff 1 month later

- Much improved, doing well at home, school
- Continues in therapy.
- MOAS score has dropped further to 8
- Continue risperidone 0.5 BID



#### Cliff 6 months later

- Doing well.
- Continues in therapy.
- MOAS score 3
- Self esteem has improved
- Consider tapering Risperdal by .25 mg Q1-2 months
- Follow-up and discontinue Risperdal if appropriate



#### Summary: Aggression management in primary care

- Aggression common symptom in primary care
- Multifactorial associated with many mental health dx
- STEP 1 Thorough assessment (identify primary diagnosis and co-morbidities, severity, ABCs)
- STEP 2 Link for E/B psychosocial treatment
- STEP 3 Medications: treat primary diagnosis to remission if possible
- STEP 4 -If aggression persists and is severe (safety), consider SHORT TERM use of atypical antipsychotic
- Call Project Teach for assistance



### **QUESTIONS?**