

Munchausen by Internet

A netnographic case study

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Introduction

- What is netnography?
- What is the Click?
- Who are the people involved?
- What is Munchausen by Internet?

Munchausen by Internet

- Munchausen Syndrome
- Feldman
- MBI

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

The posts consistently duplicate material in other posts, in textbooks, or online health-related websites

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

The length, frequency, and duration of the posts do not match the claimed severity of the illness e.g. a detailed post from someone claiming to be in septic shock).

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

The characteristics of the supposed illness and its treatment emerge as caricatures based on the individual's preconceptions.

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

Near-fatal exacerbations of illness
alternate with miraculous recoveries.

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

Personal claims are fantastic, contradicted by later posts, or disproved

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

There are continual dramatic events in the person's life especially when other group members have become the focus of attention.

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

The individual complains that other group members are not sufficiently supportive and warns that this insensitivity is undermining his/her health

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

The individual resists telephone contact, sometimes offering odd justifications

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

There is feigned blitheness about crises (e.g. a cardiac arrest) that will predictably attract immediate attention.

Clues to Factitious Illness Behavior on the Internet

Others ostensibly posting on behalf of the individual have identical patterns of writing, such as grammatical errors, misspellings, and stylistic idiosyncrasies

Other compelling information

- Continual requests for chats with the SBCN
- Distress Score was 1 on joining the Click

Conclusion

- Diana was in need of support and nurturance
- May have a form of F I B online but not necessarily MBI
- Increase in online communities = potential for increase in MBI
- Nurses should be aware of this condition if they plan to practice online