

Accurate Recognition of Mood Disorders Creates Effective Medical Treatment Plans in Maltreated Children

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Case History

Jim (not his real name) was a 9-year-old boy referred for psychiatric evaluation by his psychotherapist of 1 1/2 years. At the time of this evaluation, Jim had lived with his adoptive parents for a 2-year period. Prior to his adoption, he had been in a foster/adoptive situation with these same parents for 1 1/2 years. He had been in another foster home since relinquishment from his birth mother when he was 2 years of age.

Jim's symptoms were of both a severe and long-lasting nature, predating even the initial relinquishment when he was 2 years of age. These symptoms included "acting out." He was described as self-centered and selfish. Adoptive parents described "up and down cycles" of roughly 3-month intervals from at least the last 3-year period. In his "up cycle," Jim was described as a relatively easy-to-please goal-directed child who attempted to do his best to fit into his new family. On his "down cycles," all of the above mentioned symptoms were prominent. Additionally, he had a consistently difficult time falling asleep.

-This is the first page only. To access the chapter, please purchase the book *Handbook of Attachment Interventions*.