

Autoerotic Sex

Definition: sexual feeling or sexual gratification which are self-induced without having sexual relations with another.

Reasons Why

1. No sex partner available
2. No preference for or desire to have sex with another may stem from inadequacies or insecurities or from the need to have total control during sexual activity
3. Chosen because of the shame or embarrassment over the nature of the sexual desires.
Bondage sadomasochistic
4. Moral or religious beliefs
5. Experimentation most common reason especially for kids.

Variation in Autoerotic activity

1. Best known and most widely used simple masturbation
2. Individuals using inflatable doll or mannequin (pygmalionism) as a sex partner
3. Solitary voyeur
4. Exhibitionist
5. Bestiality
6. Necrophilia

Law Enforcement Interest

- acts that violate the law
- dangerous autoerotic activities
- deadly activities

Myths involving the investigation of Autoerotic Deaths

1. Age decedents tend to be young boys
2. Gender Autoerotic fatalities occur only in women
3. Nudity Nudity, or partial nudity, is always a feature in Autoerotic Death scenes.
4. Transvestitism Most autoerotic deaths are characterized by transvestitism

Why engage in dangerous / deadly activities?

1. Risk taking
2. Need for pain or humiliation
3. Experimentation
4. Use of hypoxia to enhance sexual pleasure
5. Participant is unaware of the danger (case)

Autoerotic Fatalities

The manner of death for autoerotic fatalities in most instances is accidental it can be natural, suicide or homicide.

Individuals engaging in non-dangerous autoerotic practices may die of natural causes such as a heart attack. The activity may not have been a contributing factor.

Individuals may also decide while engaging in the autoerotic activity to commit suicide.

These individuals may also become the victim of homicide. These activities may have nothing to do with the homicide or may have been part (case). Killers may also dress up the scene to resemble an accidental death.

Typical Autoerotic Fatalities

1. Most common form of fatality from dangerous autoerotic activity is the use of some method of asphyxia to achieve a state of euphoria during the sexual activity. One of the following four methods are generally used:
 1. Neck compression (hanging strangulation)
 2. Airway obstruction (suffocation and choking)
 3. Chest compression
 4. Oxygen exclusion

Atypical Autoerotic Asphyxiation

1. As mentioned above there are a number of different forms of autoerotic behavior. As a result death can occur in different ways. The following methods are atypical because these methods do not often end in death.
 1. A bondage practitioner dies of exposure when he was unable to remove his bindings and is forced to remain semi-nude in a cold, remote area.
 2. A man dies of electrocution when the wires he was using to induce electrical current into his genitals become short-circuited.
 3. A man dies of peritonitis when he failed to seek medical attention after inserting and losing a large soda bottle up his rectum.
 4. A man bleeds to death when he failed to seek medical attention after accidentally stabbing himself while using a knife for autoerotic stimulation.
 5. A man dies of a gunshot wound after he lost a game of Russian roulette he was playing with a partially loaded revolver during autoerotic activity.

Equivocal Deaths

In the investigation of equivocal deaths the police investigator has two major areas to evaluate

1. The crime scene
2. The victim's history

Objective Criteria

The following list is the objective criteria that should be used to assist the pathologist or death investigator to determine autoerotic death (Turvey, 1997)

1. Evidence of a physiological mechanism for obtaining or enhancing sexual arousal that provides a self-rescue mechanism or allows the victim to voluntarily discontinue its effects
2. Reasonable expectation of privacy
3. Evidence of solo sexual activity
4. Evidence of sexual fantasy aids
5. Evidence of prior dangerous autoerotic practice
6. No apparent suicidal intent

Behavioral Reconstruction in Equivocal Cases

The question as you can see that most from sexual fatalities is did the victim die accidentally, was it suicide or was it homicide. We will discuss six cases in which there was question.