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**Case Study of An Octogenarian Hoarder: Stuffing and Occupying any Space between Neurosis and Psychosis**

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**Learning Goal:**

At the conclusion of this presentation, audience members will be able to:

- 1- Define hoarding.
- 2- Describe the particular meaning it holds for the octogernarian under discussion.
- 3- Provide an example of how hoarding *in extremis* can be devilitating.

**Abstract Text:**

Abstract

Until about 1984, the literature of psychotherapy with the aged was particularly meager. Descriptions of work with the aged who hoard was even more sparse. According to Welsted (2014), hoarding is “a complex form of psychopathology characterized by excessive accumulation of items and extreme difficulty parting with possessions...” which effects approximately 2 to 6 percent of the population. Even more recently, Brien, O’Connor, and Russell-Carroll (2018) qualitatively analyzed the experience of 5 patients who hoard. What emerged were themes involving ambivalence relating to others, attempts to conceal shame, and a suspension of meaning-making. They assert that the primary goal of people who hoard is to maintain a good object in the world and sustain relationships with that object. They concluded that a significant motif at the heart of these concerns was each individual’s attempt to manage inner emotions and “keep open the possibility of realizing a fantasized potential, and in doing so, to protect a vulnerable self.”

This presentation will attempt to fill in some of the gaps that previously existed in theory and treatment technique with special reference to one unusual case, a man whose hoarding was so obsessive it took on psychotic dimensions.

**ON THE HEALING POWER  
OF HUMAN RECONNECTION**