

IEDTA

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# VENGEANCE

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# Vengeance (definition)

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PROVERB: "Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves."  
The implication here is that a desire for revenge may ultimately hurt the seeker as much as the victim.  
Alternatively, it may imply that you should be prepared to die yourself in the process of seeking revenge.

# POINTS for DISCUSSION

1. When do the legal issues of Dangerousness (Tarasoff) need to be considered in intensive psychotherapy?

# TARASOFF Guidelines

Clinicians must balance the professional obligation of confidentiality with the duties to warn (and protect):

First, the [therapist] should have evidence that the client poses a threat of violence to a third party....

Second, the [therapist] should have evidence that the violent act is foreseeable....

Third, the [therapist] should have evidence that the violent act is imminent....

Finally...a practitioner must be able to identify the probable victim. The disclosure of confidential information against a client's wishes should not occur unless the [therapist] has specific information about the client's apparent intent.

# POINTS for DISCUSSION

2. How to differentiate  
primitive destructive images/  
ruminations/ obsessions from  
destructive impulses that may  
be acted out?

# POINTS for DISCUSSION

2. Psychodiagnosis of patients obsessed with revenge and vengeance.

# POINTS for DISCUSSION

4. What is the likelihood that poorly applied ISTDP can contribute to frank dangerousness in clients and patients?



# POINTS for DISCUSSION

5. To what extent were the primitive destructive images that preoccupied the patient a product of suggestion of the therapist? ... Super-ego identification by the patient with the therapist?

# POINTS for DISCUSSION

6. What alternate applications of treatment might have been applied?