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Above all else, guard your heart, for out of it flows the Wellspring of life.

Proverbs 4:23

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Potential Symptoms / Causes

- A. A pattern of negativistic, hostile, and defiant behavior lasting at least 6 months, during which four (or more) of the following are present:
1. often loses temper
 2. often argues with adults
 3. often actively defies or refuses to comply with adults' requests or rules
 4. often deliberately annoys people
 5. often blames others for his or her mistakes or misbehavior
 6. is often touchy or easily annoyed by others
 7. is often angry and resentful
 8. is often spiteful or vindictive

Note: Consider a criterion met only if the behavior occurs more frequently than is typically observed in individuals of comparable age and developmental level.

- B. The disturbance in behavior causes clinically significant impairment in social, academic, or occupational functioning.
- C. The behaviors do not occur exclusively during the course of a Psychotic or Mood Disorder.
- D. Criteria are not met for Conduct Disorder, and, if the individual is age 18 years or older, criteria are not met for Antisocial Personality Disorder.

Alternative Causes

Conduct Disorder; Mood Disorders; Psychotic Disorders; Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder; Mental Retardation; impaired language comprehension; typical feature of certain developmental stages.