

FAMILY DYNAMICS: COPING WITH TRANSVERSE MYELITIS (TM)

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“CONVENTIONAL
TREATMENTS OF SERIOUS
ILLNESS MAY SAVE THE
PATIENT, BUT CAUSE
IRREPARABLE HARM TO THE
FAMILY UNIT.”

John Rolland, MD

“THE PSYCHOSOCIAL
STRAINS ON A FAMILY WITH
A MEMBER SUFFERING A
CHRONIC OR LIFE
THREATENING CONDITION
CAN RIVAL THE PHYSICAL
STRAINS ON THE PATIENT.”

John Rolland, MD

PRESENTATION OBJECTIVES

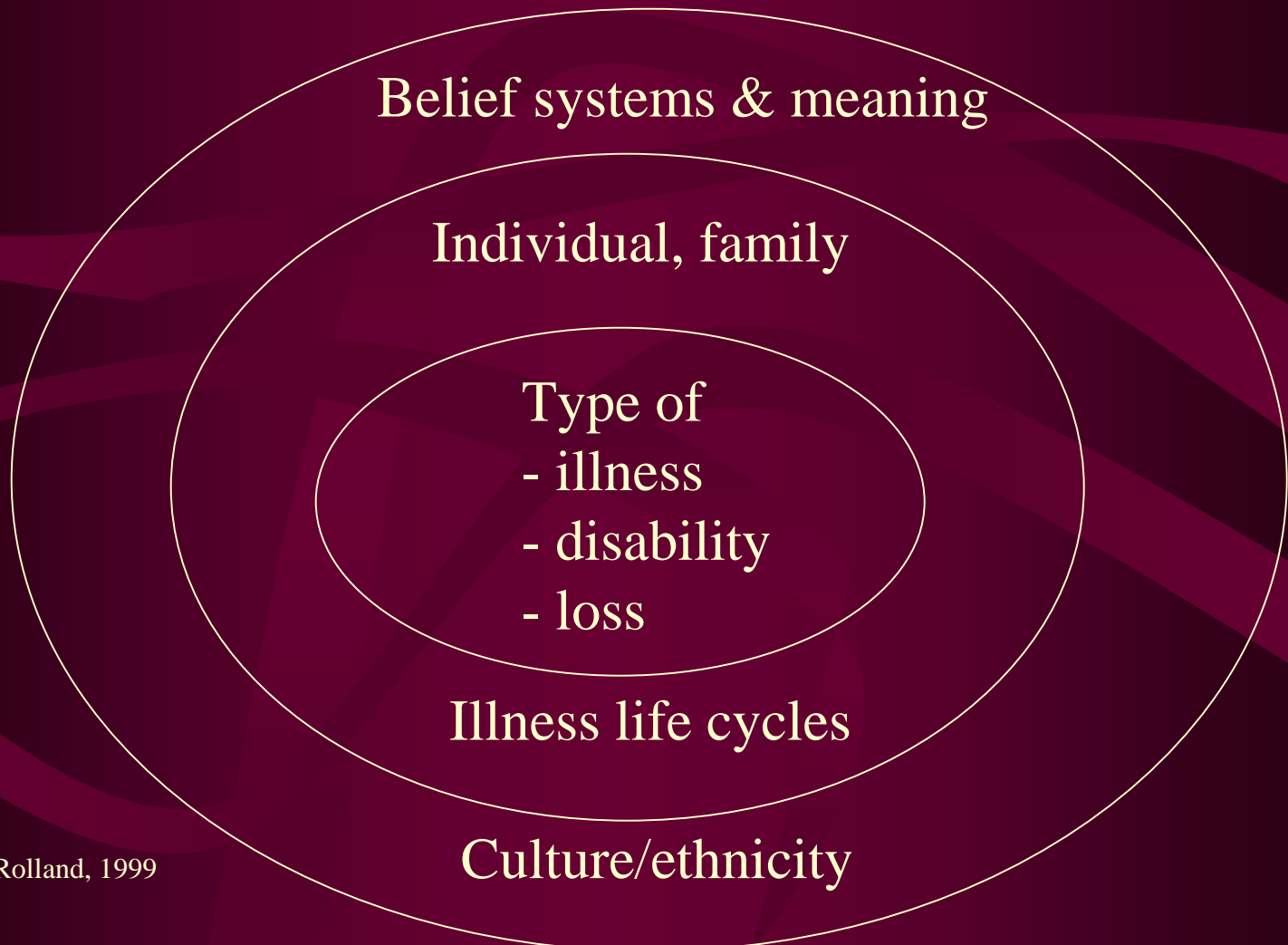
- Awareness
- Family information
- Family types
- Couple/individual characteristics
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

APPROPRIATE FAMILY ASSESSMENT ASSISTS IN DEVELOPING STRONG TREATMENT PLANS

- Information
- Stress/crisis
- Type
- Characteristics

**THE IMPACT OF THE
DIAGNOSIS OF A CHRONIC
OR LIFE THREATENING
ILLNESS IMPACTS THE
ENTIRE FAMILY SYSTEM
LEAVING NO ONE
UNTOUCHED.**

FAMILY SYSTEMS ILLNESS MODEL



FAMILY SYSTEMS ILLNESS

FAMILIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A “HEALTH RELATED FAMILY SYSTEM” RATHER THAN JUST THE “ILL PERSON” OR THE FAMILY OF THE PATIENT (Rolland, 1994).

FAMILY SYSTEMS ILLNESS

- Psychosocial type

TIME PHASES OF ILLNESS

Phases

Crisis

Chronic

Terminal

Diagnosis

Long
haul

Death

Pre-diagnosis
with symptoms

Initial
adjustment
period

Pre-terminal

Mourning
& resolution
of loss

Time line

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY
NEEDS MUST BE MET IN
ORDER FOR THE FAMILY TO
DEVELOP HEALTHY
PSYCHOSOCIAL
ADAPTATION TO CRISES.

FAMILY/COUPLE INFORMATION

- Family structure
- Age
- Marital status
- Medical history

FAMILY/COUPLE INFORMATION

- Developmental stage
- Extended family
- Genogram
- Resources

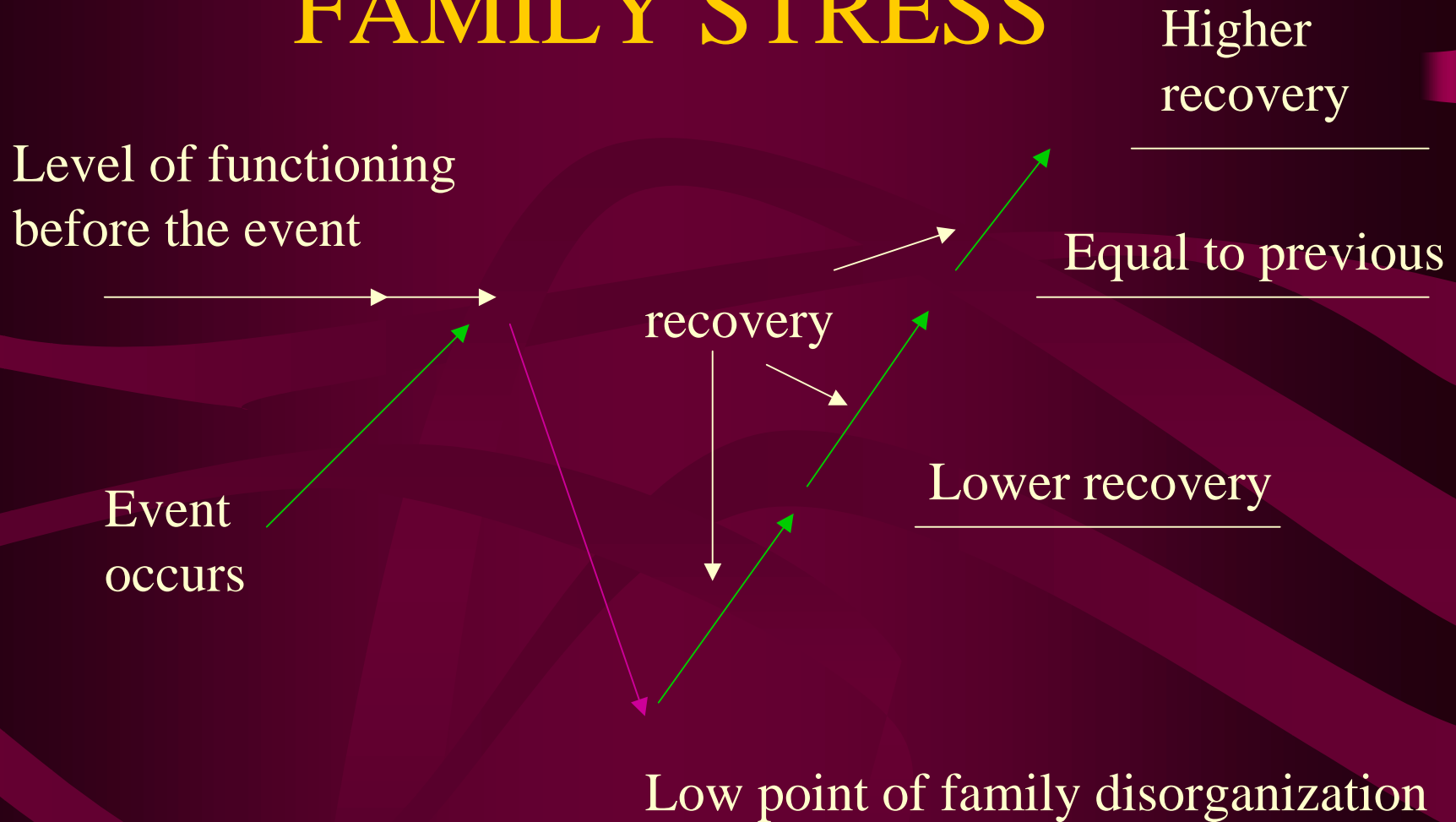
GENOGRAMS

- Family structure
- Life cycle fit
- Pattern repetition
- Life event/functioning
- Relational patterns and triangles
- Family balance

FAMILY STRESS IS THE UPSET OF THE STEADY STATE OF THE FAMILY

- Stressor event
- Source of the event
- Severity of the event

FAMILY STRESS



FAMILY TYPE

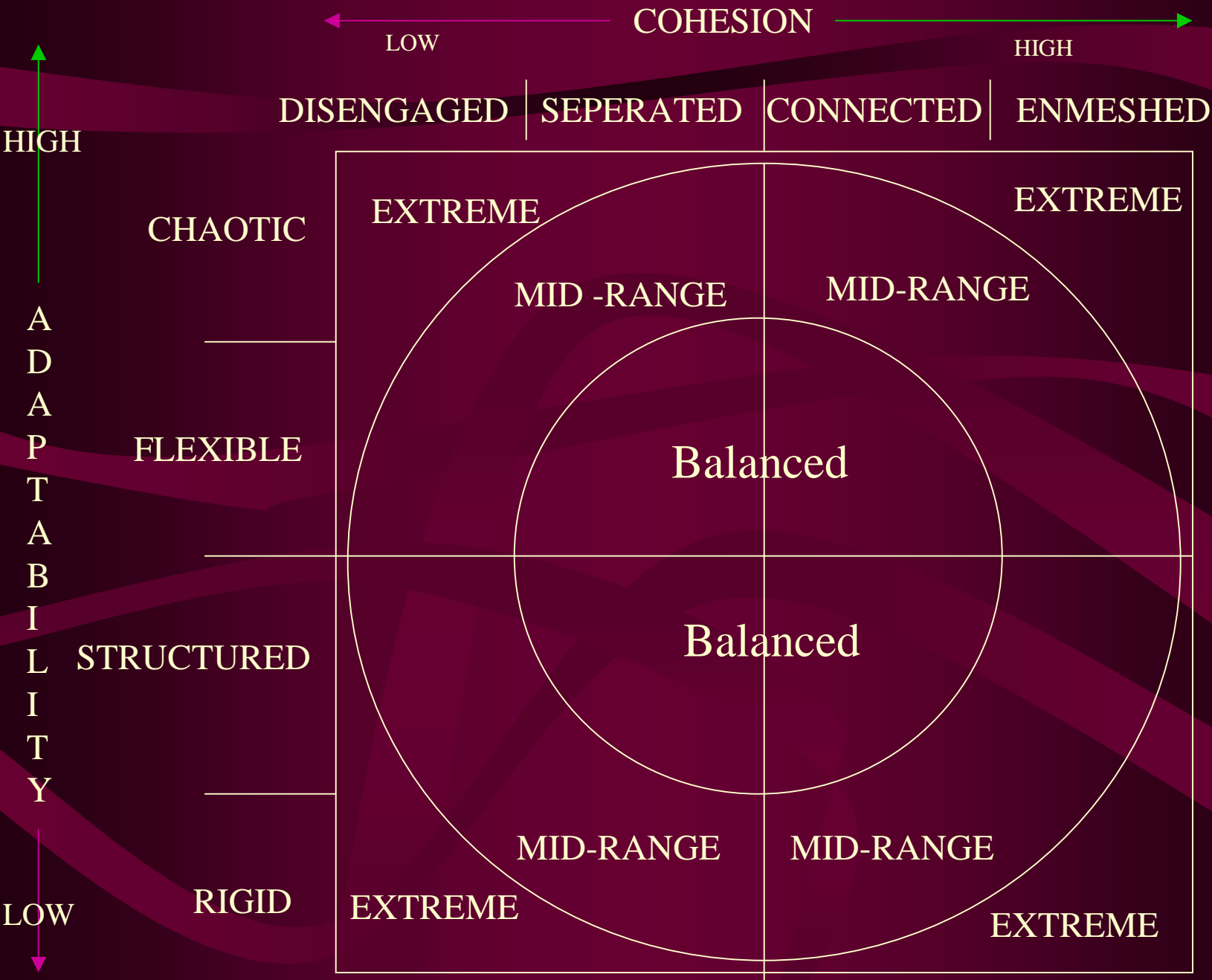
- Communication
 - Positive - Negative
- Adaptability
 - Rigid - Structured - Flexible - Chaotic
- Cohesion
 - Disengaged - Separated - Connected - Enmeshed

FAMILY ADAPTABILITY
(CHANGE) IS THE ABILITY
TO CHANGE ITS POWER
STRUCTURE, ROLE
RELATIONSHIPS, AND RULES
IN RESPONSE TO
DEVELOPMENTAL AND
SITUATIONAL STRESS.

**FAMILY COHESION
(TOGETHERNESS) IS THE
EMOTIONAL BONDING
THAT FAMILY MEMBERS
HAVE TOWARD ONE
ANOTHER.**

FAMILY TYPE EXTREME

- Chaotically - Disengaged
- Chaotically - Enmeshed
- Rigidly - Disengaged
- Rigidly - Enmeshed



THE BALANCING ACT

- Time together
- Involvement
- Decision making
- Energy allocation
- Loyalty

TIGHT ROPE

- Leadership
- Roles
- Responsibilities
- Rules
- Children's feelings

CHARACTERISTICS

- Personality characteristics
- Values
- Family background
- Marital conflict
- Relationship experiences
- Satisfaction and stability

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maintain/improve family integrity
- FACES II
- Family stress
- RELATE

CONCLUSIONS

- Assessment tools
- Referral
- Treatment plan
- Family integration

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