

# Has the Rolling Uterus Finally Gathered Moss? Somatization and Malingering of Cognitive Deficit in Six Cases of “Toxic Mold” Exposure

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The following are excerpts whereby the results of Independent Medical Exams (IME) performed on behalf of defendants in mold litigation, were turned into a “medical paper”. The paper in its entirety is available upon request.

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FORENSIC APPLICATIONS

“The purpose of this paper is to present the results of personality test data (Table 1), multiple cognitive effort indices (Table 1), and neurocognitive findings (Table 2) on a series of six patients in litigation claiming cognitive symptoms from mold exposure. Other than these six, the authors have encountered only one other case of alleged exposure, a non-litigant in an inpatient psychiatric setting. That case was associated with psychosis; the delusions of harm from mold resolved after neuroleptic treatment, and the case is not reported in the series below”.

“The history of science holds many medical hypotheses that have been debunked over time. For millennia, medical dogma held that certain psychological afflictions in women were due to a medical condition, namely, a roving uterus. Over those same millennia (and longer), humans and *Stachbotrys chartarum* have co-existed peacefully, until the last decade apparently. Yet, while the peripatetic uterus and other fantastic medical theories have come and gone, depression and somatization have remained accepted medical entities recognized since the beginning of medical thought. Whether the toxic mold story ends as a footnote, or research finally establishes a credible persistent harm, it will always be necessary to understand the contributions of depression, somatization, and malingering in claims of personal injury in toxic mold exposure. In the mean time, clinicians, lawyers, judges, and forensic experts should give much ethical thought to the counter therapeutic role litigation and repetitive medical evaluations and pseudo-treatments assuredly play in increasing the distress and invalidism of somatoform patients who find themselves victim of this curious new social syndrome.”