

Managing Your Anger Constructively in the Era of **#MeToo**

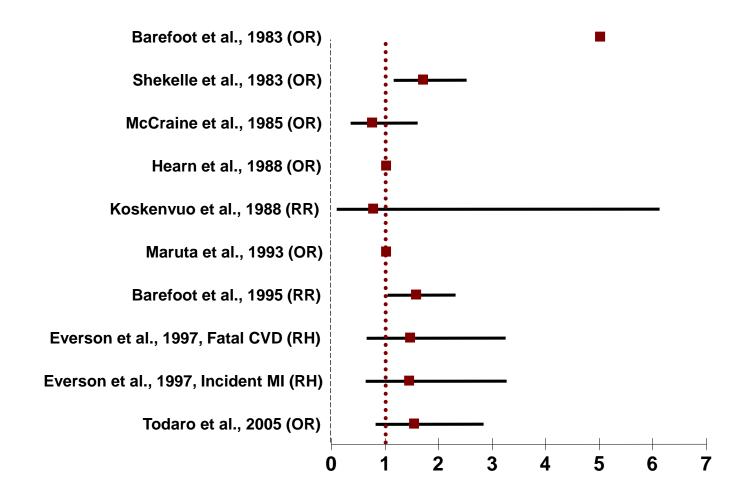
Karina W Davidson, PhD, MASc

Senior Vice President, Research Dean of Academic Affairs & Professor Feinstein Institute for Medical Research Professor of Behavioral Medicine Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell

Olha/Adobe Stock

Destructive anger has physiological and medical consequences

Hostility and CHD Morbidity and Mortality





- Anger is a risk factor (with a relative risk of 2.3) for triggering a myocardial infarction¹
- Anger is even more of a risk factor for triggering a myocardial infarction in those with lower educational levels²



- Higher anger responses are associated with more coronary vasoconstriction in diseased coronary segments¹
- Coronary flow responses during anger are attenuated in CVD patients.¹

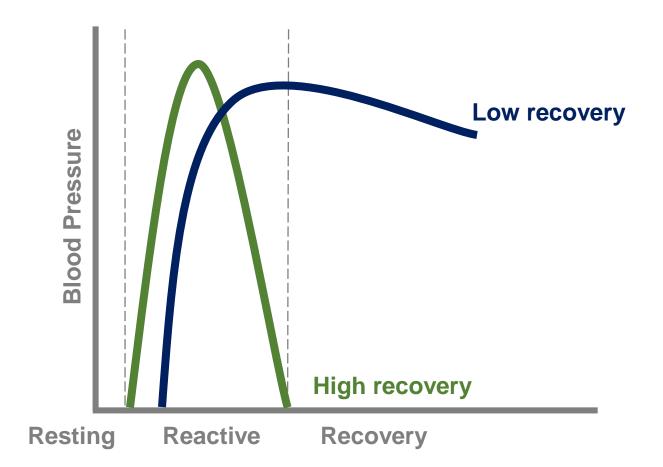


- Anger, rather than fear or sadness, is accompanied by the largest effects on the cardiovascular system.
- During anger there is maintained levels of peripheral vascular resistance and increased cardiac output and heart rate compared with changes during neutral imagery.¹



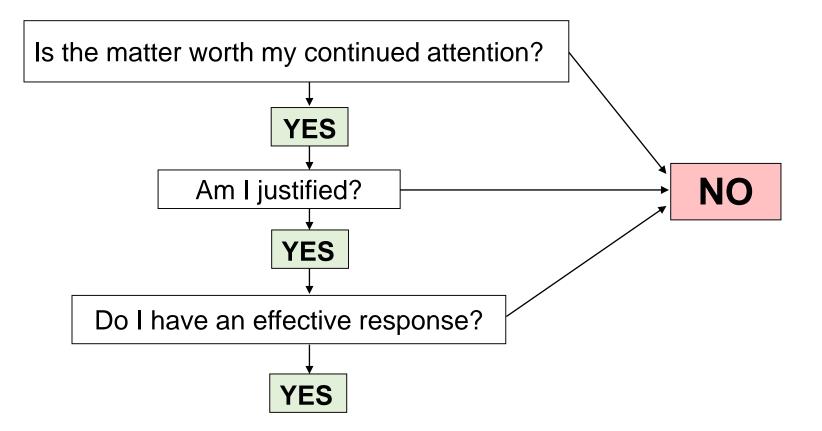
• Thus, anger often precedes an acute event, it appears to lead to **platelet reactivity**, **vasoconstriction**, and to increased cardiac output in combination with maintained peripheral resistance.

Blood Pressure Recovery

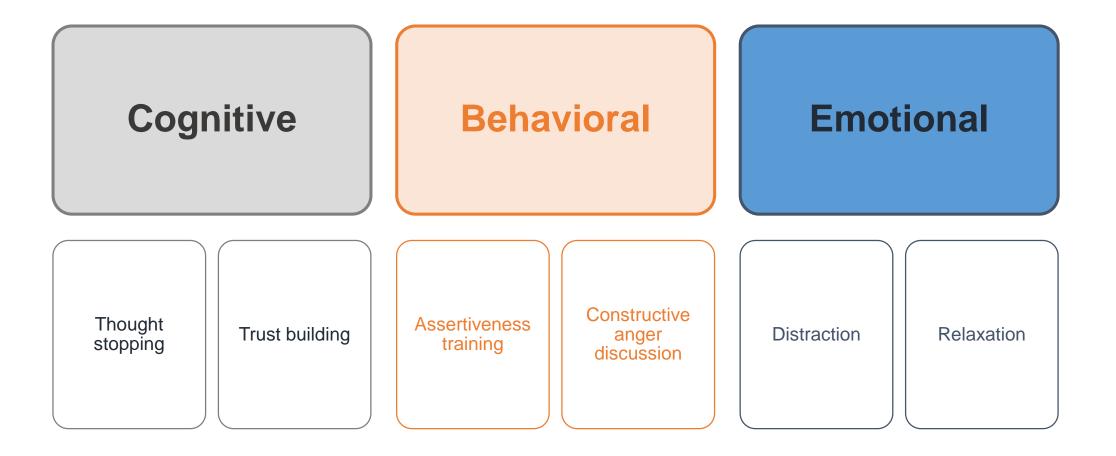


Traditional Anger and Hostility interventions Based on Stereotypical Male anger

The Hostility Roadmap

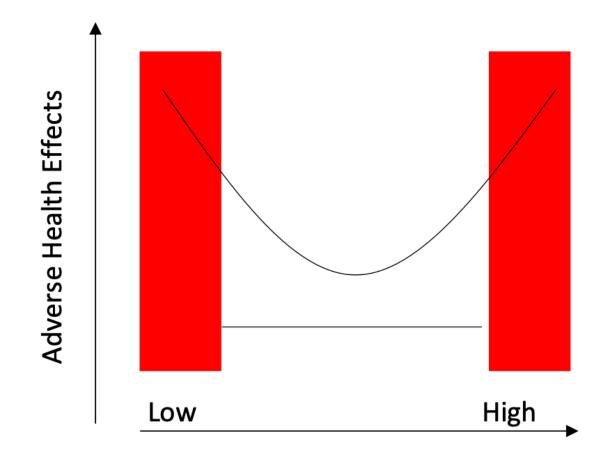


Anger Intervention Tailoring



Social Conflict Model of Anger

- Posits a curvilinear relationship between anger and health
- Extreme Anger-Out (aggression) as well as excessive anger suppression (passivity) cause repetitive social and intrapsychic conflict and lead to higher blood pressure



Negative Anger-Out

Anger Regulation Interventions

Relaxation-Based Therapies

• Systematic Desensitization

Multi-component

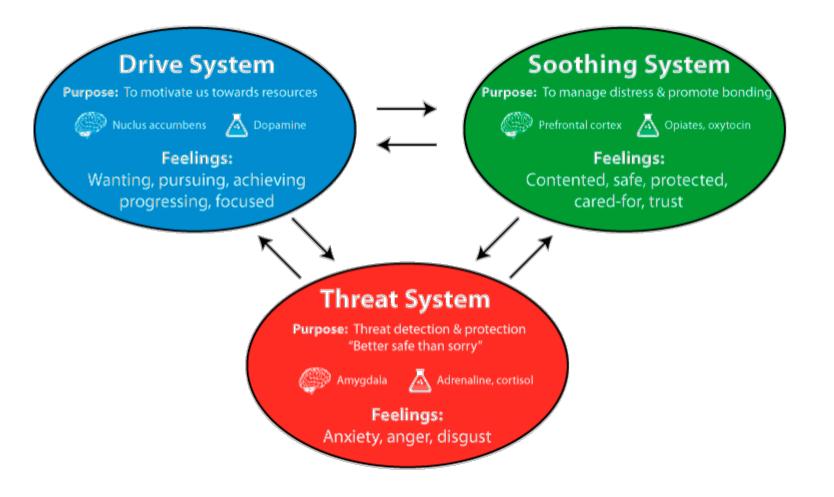
- Stress inoculation
- Cognitive-behaviors

Self-Instructional Training

Cognitive Therapy

Does the type of anger we experience make a difference to our health?

Anger is Evolutionary







Greg Allen/Invision/AP 2018

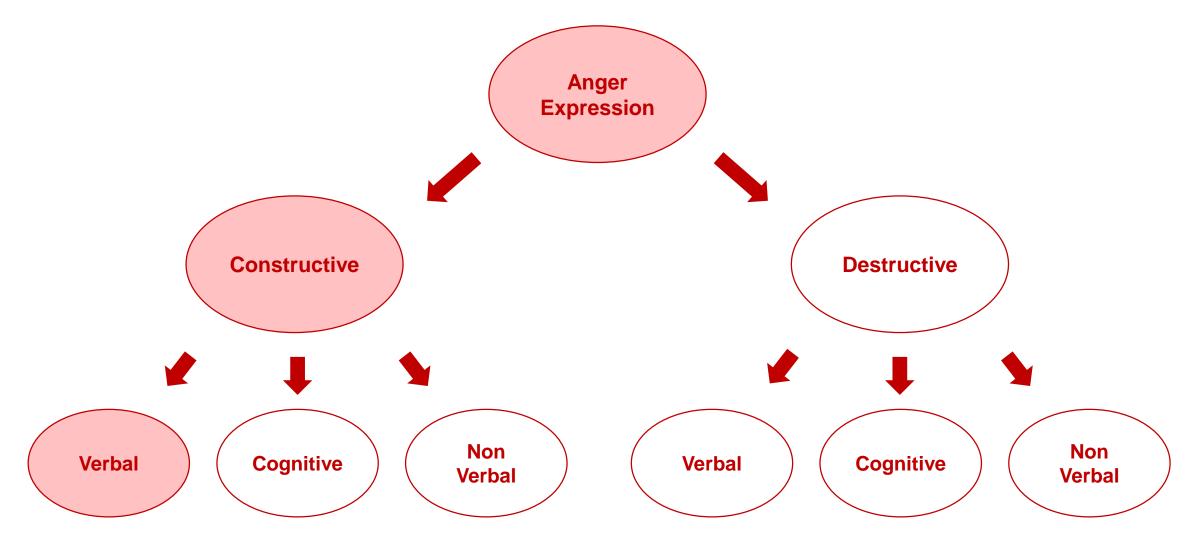
Moving from destructive motivation to constructive motivation

Constructive Anger Defined



Constructive verbal anger behavior is defined as a goal-oriented, problem solving approach to responding to anger.

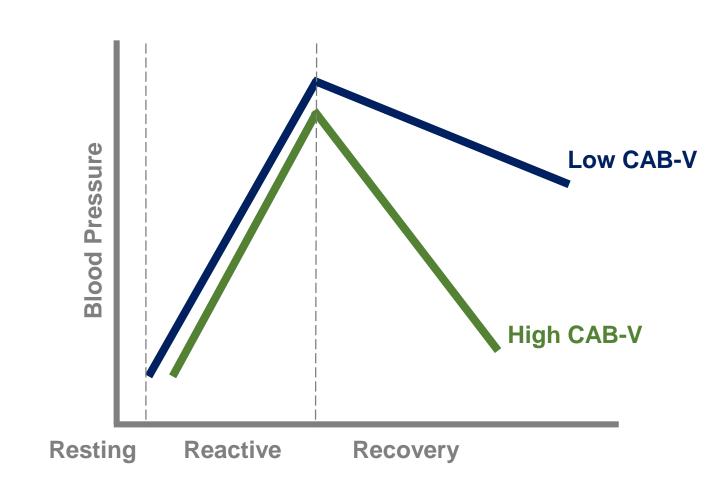
Additional Anger Expression Dimensions



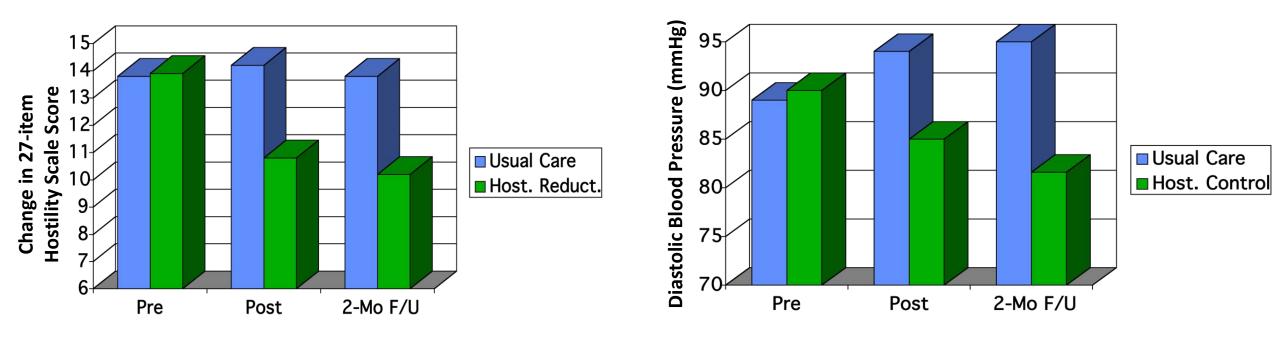
• The CAB-V scale was designed to assess individual differences in anger behavior

- CAB-V Items
 - Individual discusses her anger to solve the problem
 - Individual discusses her anger to better understand her possible role in the situation

High and Low CAB-V Groups and Blood Pressure



Can We Do Anything About It?



Constructive vs Destructive Verbal Anger



Verbal anger reactions aimed to:

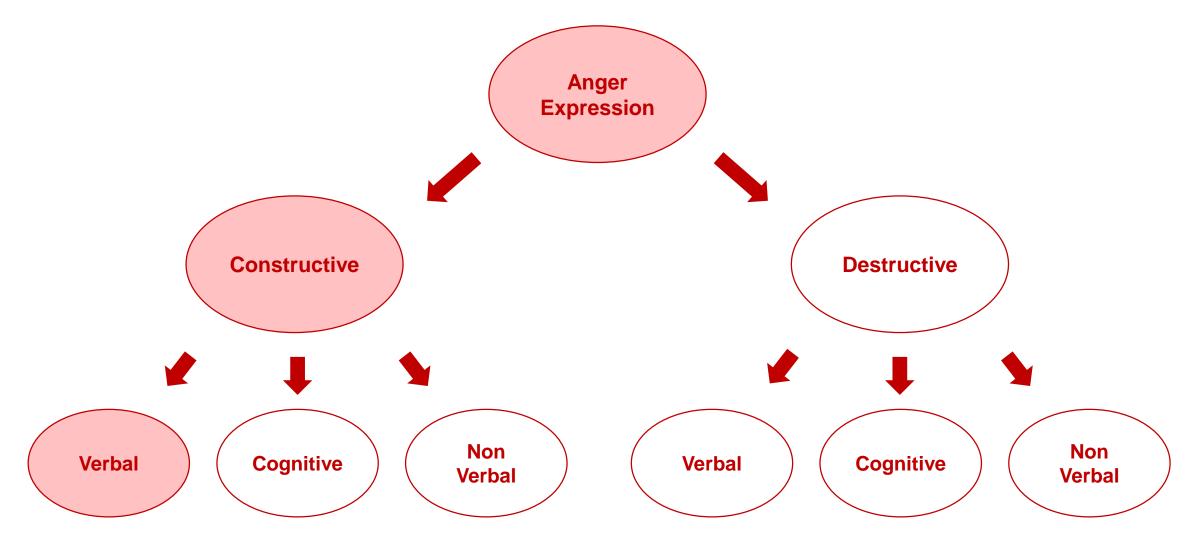
- Defend one's standpoint
- Prove others wrong
- Getting people on one's side

Verbal anger reactions aimed to:

- Resolve problems
- Find compromises
- Minimize future conflict



Additional Anger Expression Dimensions



Applying constructive anger to #MeToo



