Psychological Disorders- Schizophrenia

***Definition****: Schizophrenia is a severe mental disorder –- categorized as a psychotic illness –- that is usually treated with antipsychotic medications. It can involve breaks with reality.*

Psychosis

* The word "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_" is used to describe conditions that affect the mind, in which there has been some loss of contact with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (false beliefs), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_thoughts and speech are symptoms of psychosis. These symptoms can seem so real that often the person does not realize that they are experiencing psychosis.

Who gets Psychosis?

* Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ of people will experience a psychotic episode, a first episode usually occurs in adolescence or early adult life. Psychosis occurs across all cultures and affects males and females equally.
* Being able to treat psychosis early is very important. A successful recovery leads to a healthy, productive future.

What period of stress and transitions might lead to a first psychotic break?

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***Signs and Symptoms***

1) Delusions- A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a firmly-held idea that a person has despite clear and obvious evidence that it isn’t true. Delusions occur in more than 90% of those who have the disorder. Often, these delusions involve illogical or bizarre ideas or fantasies.

1. **Delusions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Belief that often involve bizarre ideas and plots (e.g. “Martians are trying to poison me with radioactive particles delivered through my tap water”).
2. **Delusions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – An event is believed to have a special and personal meaning. For example, a person with schizophrenia might believe a billboard or a person on TV is sending a message meant specifically for them.
3. **Delusions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Belief that one is a famous or important figure, such as Jesus Christ or Napolean. Alternately, delusions of grandeur may involve the belief that one has unusual powers that no one else has (e.g. the ability to fly).
4. **Delusions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Belief that one’s thoughts or actions are being controlled by outside, alien forces. Common delusions of control include

2) Hallucinations

* Hallucinations are sounds or other sensations experienced as real when they exist only in the person's mind.
* While hallucinations can involve any of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, auditory hallucinations (e.g. hearing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or some other sound) are most common in schizophrenia.
* Visual hallucinations are also relatively common

3) Disorganizations – Speech & behavior

***Disorganized speech***: Fragmented thinking is characteristic of schizophrenia. People with schizophrenia tend to have trouble concentrating and maintaining a train of thought. They may respond to queries with an unrelated answer, start sentences with one topic and end somewhere completely different, speak incoherently, or say illogical things.

Disorganized Speech Types:

\* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Rapidly shifting from topic to topic, with no connection between one thought and the next.

\* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Made-up words or phrases that only have meaning to the patient.

\* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Repetition of words and statements; saying the same thing over and over.

\* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Meaningless use of rhyming words (“I said the bread and read the shed and fed Ned at the head").

***Disorganized behavior*:** Schizophrenia causes impairments in a person’s ability to take care of him or herself, work, and interact with others. Disorganized behavior appears as:

\* A decline in overall daily functioning

\* Unpredictable or inappropriate emotional responses

\* Behaviors that appear bizarre and have no purpose

\* Lack of inhibition and impulse control

4) Catatonic Movement

* Disturbances in peoples movement
* Can show as a dramatic reduction in activity – to the point of voluntary movement totally stopping (catatonic stupor)
* OR dramatically increased movement (catatonic excitement)

5) “Negative Symptoms”

* The so-called “negative” symptoms of schizophrenia are called such because: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Common negative symptoms of schizophrenia include:

* **Lack of emotional \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** –Inexpressive face, including a flat voice, lack of eye contact, and blank or restricted facial expressions.
* **Lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Problems with motivation; lack of self-care.
* **Seeming lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Apparent unawareness of the environment; social withdrawal.
* **Speech \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** – Inability to carry a conversation; short and sometimes disconnected replies to questions; speaking in monotone.

Uncle Jude

*What symptoms of Schizophrenia is Jude displaying? (be specific).*

Your uncle Jude has been acting strange lately. He often comes over for family dinners and recently he has been making increasingly strange comments. When asked about some of the comments, his responses usually lead back to his neighbor who he is very suspicious of. He proceeds to explain that his neighbor is out to get him and is plotting to break into his house in the evening. He has also seen his neighbor lurking outside of his window at night, he says. In addition to reportedly seeing his neighbor outside his house, he has overheard his neighbor plotting against him and whispers of what he is going to do. Rarely, you even hear him say nonsensical things to himself under his breath that have no logical meaning. At times, he seems to gaze off into the distance with a blank look on his face and is completely unresponsive to what is happening around him.

During the next week, when you go over to visit him in his house to check on him, you find that he has spent huge amounts of money on Roman-like pillars in the entrance of his house, and a massive portrait of himself in the front hall. He believes that he is the next condo development tycoon of North America, and has plans to make “billions” of dollars. He struggles to converse with you, as the conversation always ends up back to the neighbor.