Psychiatry Sequence (PSY614)

Topic: Somatoform Disorders, Factitious Disorder, and Malingering

Faculty: Rachel Glick, M.D.


Lecture: Tuesday, October 28, 2008, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Learning Objectives:

After reviewing this material, the student should be able to:

1. Define Somatization.

2. Recognize, compare, and contrast Somatization Disorder, Conversion Disorder, Hypochondriasis, Pain Disorder, and Body Dysmorphic Disorder, so that given a clinical vignette, the correct disorder will be chosen.

3. Know the general approach to management of the Somatoform Disorders.

4. Recognize Factitious Disorder if presented with a case, and know how it differs from the Somatoform Disorders.
5. Know what distinguishes Factitious Disorder from Malingering.

Sample Test Question:

A young mother of two is brought to the emergency room by her husband because she is suddenly unable to see. Examination of her eyes reveals no abnormalities. On careful questioning the emergency room physician learns that this happened to her once before about 3 years ago, and at that time the symptom went away by itself after a few days. The most likely diagnosis is:

A. Factitious Disorder  
B. Hypochondriasis  
C. Somatization Disorder  
D. Conversion Disorder  
E. Malingering

Answer: D