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Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

M2 Psychiatry Sequence

Michael Jibson
Fall 2008



Psychosis

- Significant impairment in reality testing, as evidenced by
 - hallucinations
 - delusions
 - thought disorganization
 - grossly disorganized behavior
-

Hallucination

- False sensory perception
 - Auditory
 - Visual
 - Tactile
 - Olfactory
 - Gustatory
-

Delusion

- False belief that is
 - based on incorrect inference about external reality
 - firmly held despite obvious evidence to the contrary
 - not sanctioned by the individual's culture or group
-

Delusion

- Persecutory - belief that one is being malevolently treated in some way
- Referential - neutral occurrences are seen as directed toward oneself
- Religious - delusional beliefs of a spiritual or religious nature
- Control - thoughts, feelings, or body feel controlled or manipulated

(cont.)

Delusion

(cont.)

- Grandiose - inflated sense of worth, power, accomplishment, etc.
 - Somatic - belief that one's body is defective, has been changed, or is diseased
 - Jealous - belief that one's sexual partner is unfaithful
 - Erotomanic - belief that another (often famous) person is in love with one
-

Disorganized Thoughts or Behavior

- Meaningless or chaotic speech
 - Loose associations
 - Bizarre behavior
 - Poorly directed behavior
 - Catatonia
-

Schizophrenia

Historical Background

- Kraepelin - Dementia Praecox
(*Dementia Praecox and Paraphrenia*, 1896)
-

Schizophrenia

Historical Background

- Bleuler's "Four A's" (*Dementia Praecox; or, the Group of Schizophrenias*, 1911)
 - Autism
 - Loose associations
 - Affective disturbance
 - Ambivalence
-

Schizophrenia

Historical Background

- Schneider's "First-Rank Symptoms" (1950's)
 - Audible thoughts
 - More than one voice arguing or discussing the patient
 - Voices commenting on the patient's activities
 - Thought insertion
 - Thought withdrawal

(cont.)

Schizophrenia

Historical Background

- Schneider's "First-Rank Symptoms" (1950's) (cont.)
 - Thought broadcasting
 - Made feelings / Made impulses
 - Made volition
 - Somatic passivity
 - Delusional perception
-

Schizophrenia

Historical Background

- DSM-III (1980)
 - a. Active psychosis
 - b. Functional deterioration
-

Schizophrenia

DSM-IV Diagnostic Criteria

- A. **At least two psychotic symptoms for one month**
 - B. **Social or occupational dysfunction**
 - C. **Six month duration of symptoms**
 - D. Schizoaffective and major mood disorders have been excluded
 - E. Substance abuse and medical conditions have been excluded
 - F. Not due to a pervasive developmental disorder (e.g. autism)
-

Schizophrenia

Diagnostic Criteria for Schizophrenia (DSM-IV)

- A. **Characteristic symptoms:** Two (or more) of the following, each present for a significant portion of time during a 1-month period (or less if successfully treated):
- (1) delusions
 - (2) hallucinations
 - (3) disorganized speech (e.g., frequent derailment or incoherence)
 - (4) grossly disorganized or catatonic behavior
 - (5) negative symptoms, i.e., affective flattening, alogia, or avolition
- B. **Social/occupational dysfunction:** For a significant portion of the time since the onset of the disturbance, one or more major areas of functioning such as work, interpersonal relations, or self-care are markedly below the level achieved prior to the onset (or when the onset is in childhood or adolescence, failure to achieve expected level of interpersonal, academic, or occupational achievement).
- C. **Duration:** Continuous signs of the disturbance persist for at least 6 months. This 6-month period must include at least 1 month of symptoms (or less if successfully treated) that meet Criterion A (i.e., active-phase symptoms) and may include periods of prodromal or residual symptoms. During these prodromal or residual periods, the signs of the disturbance may be manifested by only negative symptoms or two or more symptoms listed in Criterion A present in an attenuated form (e.g., odd beliefs, unusual perceptual experiences).
- D. **Schizoaffective and Mood Disorder exclusion:** Schizoaffective Disorder and Mood Disorder With Psychotic Features have been ruled out because either (1) no Major Depressive, Manic, or Mixed Episodes have occurred concurrently with the active-phase symptoms; or (2) if mood episodes have occurred during active-phase symptoms, their total duration has been brief relative to the duration of the active and residual periods.
- E. **Substance/general medical condition exclusion:** The disturbance is not due to the direct physiological effects of a substance (e.g., a drug of abuse, a medication) or a general medical condition.
- F. **Relationship to a Pervasive Developmental Disorder:** If there is a history of Autistic Disorder or another Pervasive Developmental Disorder, the additional diagnosis of Schizophrenia is made only if prominent delusions or hallucinations are also present for at least a month (or less if successfully treated).

Schizophrenia

Subtype Definition and Hierarchy

- Paranoid type
 - Preoccupation with one or more delusions or frequent auditory hallucinations
 - No prominent disorganized speech, disorganized or catatonic behavior, or flat or inappropriate affect
-

Schizophrenia

Subtype Definition and Hierarchy

- Disorganized type
 - Prominent disorganized speech
 - Disorganized behavior
 - and*
 - Flat or inappropriate affect
-

Schizophrenia

Subtype Definition and Hierarchy

- Catatonic type
 - Motoric immobility, catalepsy (waxy flexibility) or stupor
 - Excessive, purposeless motor activity
 - Extreme negativism (motiveless resistance to instructions) or mutism

(cont.)

Schizophrenia

Subtype Definition and Hierarchy

- Catatonic type

(cont.)

- Peculiarities of voluntary movement or posture, stereotyped movements, prominent mannerisms, or prominent grimacing
 - Echolalia (echoing words) or echopraxia (mimicking gestures)
-

Schizophrenia

Subtype Definition and Hierarchy

- Undifferentiated type
 - None of the above
-

Schizophrenia

Subtype Definition and Hierarchy

- Residual type
 - Absence of prominent delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech, and grossly disorganized or catatonic behavior
 - Continuing evidence of disturbance (negative symptoms, attenuated psychotic symptoms, odd beliefs, unusual perceptual experiences)
-

Schizophrenia

Symptom Descriptions

- Positive symptoms
 - Delusions
 - Hallucinations
 - Thought disorganization
-

Schizophrenia

Symptom Descriptions

- Negative symptoms
 - Blunted affect - decreased facial expression, vocal inflection, eye contact, and expressive gestures
 - Alogia - reduced amount of speech, reduced content of ideas, thought blocking, long latency
 - Avolition / Apathy - poor grooming and hygiene, impersistence at school or work, low energy
-

Schizophrenia

Symptom Descriptions

- Negative symptoms
 - Anhedonia/ Asociality - loss of recreational interests, decreased sexual activity, absence of intimacy and personal relationships
 - Inattention - socially uninvolved, “spacey,” poor cognitive function
-

Schizophrenia

Symptom Descriptions

- Cognitive impairment
 - Memory
 - Executive function
 - Language
 - Attention
-

Schizophrenia

Onset, Course, and Complications

- Age and circumstances of onset
 - Prodromal symptoms may be present from birth or may precede psychosis by months or years.
 - Poor social adjustment; few friends
 - Poor school and work performance; low IQ
 - Negative symptoms
 - Peculiarities of thought or behavior
-

Schizophrenia

Onset, Course, and Complications

- Age and circumstances of onset
 - Peak age of onset for men is 17-30
 - Peak age of onset for women is 20-40
-

Schizophrenia

Prognostic Features

Good Prognosis

Later onset
Obvious precipitating factors
Acute onset
Good premorbid social and work history
Preponderant positive symptoms
Depressive symptoms
Preservation of adequate affective expression
Paranoid or catatonic features
Variable course
Absence of neuropsychological impairment
Absence of structural brain abnormalities
Good social support systems
Early adequate treatment

Poor Prognosis

Early onset
No precipitating factors
Insidious onset
Poor premorbid social and work history
Preponderant negative symptoms
Absence of depressive symptoms
Blunted or inappropriate affect
Undifferentiated or disorganized features
Chronic course
Presence of neuropsychological impairment
Presence of structural brain abnormalities
Poor social support systems
No treatment or delayed / inadequate treatment

Schizophrenia

Clinical Course

- Prodromal symptoms typically predate the diagnosis by months or years
- Positive symptoms tend to occur episodically
 - acute episodes are the most common cause of hospitalization, and respond well to antipsychotic medication

(Cont.)

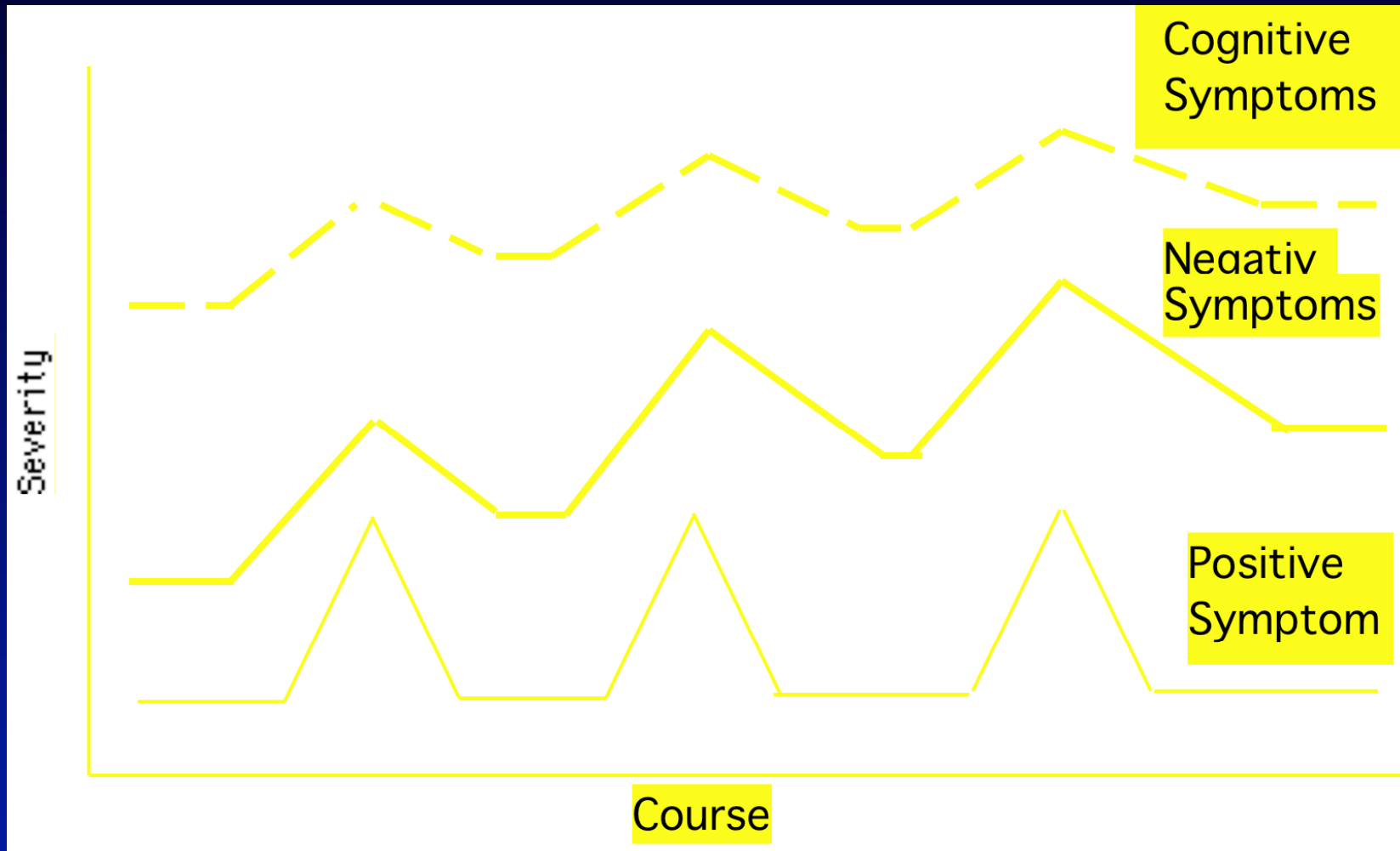
Schizophrenia

Clinical Course

(Cont.)

- Negative symptoms tend to be chronic and progressive, are correlated with social and occupational deterioration, and respond poorly to treatment
 - Residual symptoms tend to remain even when other symptoms are well controlled
-

Clinical Course of Schizophrenia



Schizophrenia

Complications

- Suicide – 5-10% of deaths
 - Depression - occurs in 50% of cases, often after an acute episode
 - Homelessness – 30-35% of homeless
 - Crime: 4-fold increase in acts of violence compared with the general population. These patients are more frequently victims of both violent and nonviolent crimes.
 - Substance abuse
-

Schizophrenia

Epidemiology

- Prevalence and social distribution
 - The lifetime risk of schizophrenia is 1% in all populations
 - Annual incidence is 15-20 per 100,000
 - Over-representation of lower socioeconomic groups is probably the result of downward drift
-

Schizophrenia

Epidemiology

- Genetic factors
 - 10% risk to first-degree relatives
 - 50% risk to monozygotic twins
 - No specific genetic linkage has been demonstrated
 - Multiple genes are probably involved
-

Schizophrenia

Epidemiology

- Prenatal and perinatal complications
 - In utero and perinatal infection
 - 2nd trimester viral infections
 - Winter births
 - Toxic exposure
 - Perinatal anoxia
-

Schizophrenia

Epidemiology

- Multi-hit Hypothesis
 - A combination of genetic vulnerability and environmental insults is required to develop the disorder
-

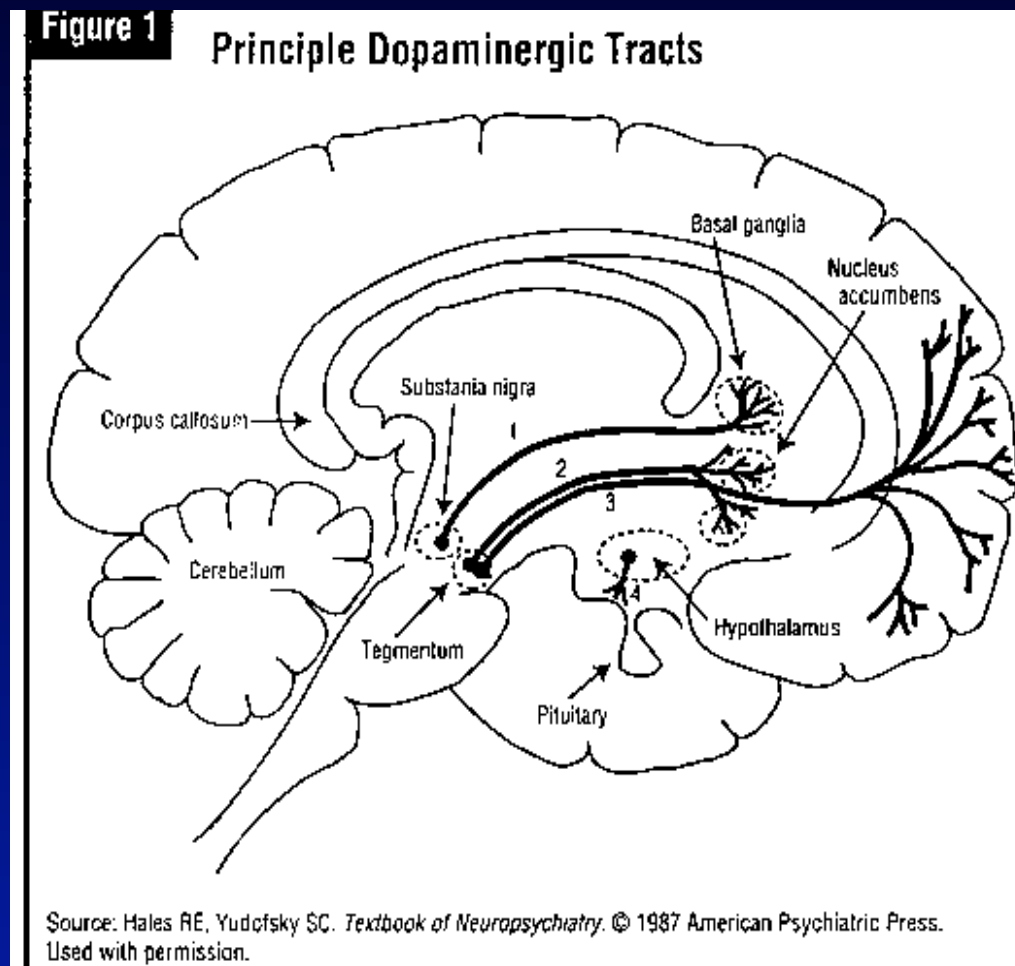
Schizophrenia

Pathophysiology

- The cause of schizophrenia is unclear, but the following are considered to have a role:
 - Dopamine hypothesis
 - Structural correlates
 - Other hypotheses
-

Major Dopamine Pathways

1. Nigrostriatal tract- (extrapyramidal pathway) begins in the substantia nigra and ends in the caudate nucleus and putamen of the basal ganglia
2. Mesolimbic tract - originates in the midbrain tegmentum and innervates the nucleus accumbens and adjacent limbic structures
3. Mesocortical tract - originates in the midbrain tegmentum and innervates anterior cortical areas
4. Tuberoinfundibular tract - projects from the arcuate and periventricular nuclei of the hypothalamus to the pituitary



Dopamine Hypothesis of Schizophrenia

Evidence for involvement

- Increased dopamine receptors at autopsy
 - Dopamine agonists and re-uptake blockers worsen psychosis
 - All effective neuroleptics block post-synaptic dopamine actions
 - Good responders to neuroleptics have progressive decrease in plasma HVA (dopamine metabolite), while poor responders do not
-

Dopamine Hypothesis of Schizophrenia

Model for dopamine involvement

- Increased subcortical dopamine activity
 - Decreased prefrontal dopamine activity
-

Dopamine Hypothesis of Schizophrenia

Structural correlates

- Increased ventricle-to-brain ratio
 - Most frequently replicated finding in schizophrenia research
 - Not associated with any specific brain structure or pathway
-

Dopamine Hypothesis of Schizophrenia

Other Hypotheses

- Alterations in glutamate neurotransmission involving the NMDA receptor
 - Aberrant GABA neurotransmission in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex
-

Schizophrenia

Treatment

- Psychopharmacology - Antipsychotic medications
 - Atypical antipsychotics (risperidone, olanzapine, quetiapine, ziprasidone, aripiprazole)
 - First-line drugs of choice - 70% of patients respond
 - Clozapine is effective in 35-50% of patients who do not respond to other antipsychotics (80-85% of all patients)
 - Conventional antipsychotics (neuroleptics)
 - 70% of patients respond
-

Schizophrenia

Treatment

- Psychosocial interventions
 - Case Management - essential for other interventions to be effective
 - Finances
 - Housing
 - Social support network
-

Psychosocial Support System

Community-based Interdisciplinary Treatment Team

Provide basic
necessities:

- Finances
- Housing
- Personal support network

All other treatments
require these to be in
place

Schizophrenia

Treatment

- Psychosocial interventions
 - Social skills training
 - Vocational rehabilitation
 - Family psychoeducation – especially for families with high levels of “expressed emotion”
 - Supportive psychotherapy
-

Mood Disorders

Manic Episode

- Psychosis
 - Occurs in ~80% of manic episodes (lifetime risk is about 1%)
 - Often mood congruent (e.g., grandiose delusions), but may be indistinguishable from psychotic symptoms of schizophrenia or other disorders
 - May include catatonia
 - Insight tends to be good between episodes, but very poor during the episodes
-

Mood Disorders

Manic Episode

- Treatment

- Antipsychotics – for acute episodes
 - Mood stabilizers – for acute episodes and prophylaxis
-

Mood Disorders

Major Depressive Episode with Psychotic Features

- Psychosis
 - 10% of depressed patients develop psychotic features (lifetime risk is about 1%)
 - Often congruent with mood (e.g., nihilistic, persecutory, punishment, somatic)
-

Mood Disorders

Major Depressive Episode with Psychotic Features

- Treatment

- ECT is effective in 80-90% of patients
 - Antipsychotic plus an antidepressant work in about 50% of cases (neither works well alone)
-

Other Psychotic Disorders

Schizoaffective Disorder

- Diagnostic criteria
 - Course of illness includes periods of psychosis without mood symptoms and periods of psychosis with mood symptoms
 - The psychotic and mood symptoms are both prominent during the course of illness
-

Other Psychotic Disorders

Schizoaffective Disorder

Diagnostic Criteria for Schizoaffective Disorder (DSM-IV)

- A. An uninterrupted period of illness during which, at some time, there is either a Major Depressive Episode, a Manic Episode, or a Mixed Episode concurrent with symptoms that meet Criterion A for Schizophrenia.
- B. During the same period of illness, there have been delusions or hallucinations for at least 2 weeks in the absence of prominent mood symptoms.
- C. Symptoms that meet criteria for a mood episode are present for a substantial portion of the total duration of the active and residual periods of the illness.
- D. The disturbance is not due to the direct physiological effects of a substance (e.g., a drug of abuse, a medication) or a general medical condition.

Other Psychotic Disorders

Schizoaffective Disorder

- Less common than schizophrenia
 - Treatment includes antipsychotic plus mood stabilizer or antidepressant
-

Other Psychotic Disorders

Delusional Disorder

- Diagnostic criteria
 - Isolated, nonbizarre delusions
 - Without other symptoms or impairments
-

Other Psychotic Disorders

Delusional Disorder

Diagnostic Criteria for Delusional Disorder (DSM-IV)

- A. Nonbizarre delusions (i.e., involving situations that occur in real life, such as being followed, poisoned, infected, loved at a distance, or deceived by spouse or lover, or having a disease) of at least 1 month's duration.
- B. Criterion A for Schizophrenia has never been met.
- C. Apart from the impact of the delusion(s) or its ramifications, functioning is not markedly impaired and behavior is not obviously odd or bizarre.
- D. If mood episodes have occurred concurrently with delusions, their total duration has been brief relative to the duration of the delusional periods.
- E. The disturbance is not due to the direct physiological effects of a substance (e.g., a drug of abuse, a medication) or a general medical condition.

Other Psychotic Disorders

Delusional Disorder

- Onset is in middle or late life
 - Lifetime risk: 0.05%
 - Course is variable
 - Treatment of choice is antipsychotics, but the symptoms respond less well than in other psychotic disorders
-

Other Psychotic Disorders

Brief Psychotic Disorder

- Diagnostic criteria
 - Psychosis that quickly resolves, with no residual impairment
-

Other Psychotic Disorders

Brief Psychotic Disorder

Diagnostic Criteria for Brief Psychotic Disorder (DSM-IV)

- A. Presence of one (or more) of the following symptoms:
 - (1) delusions
 - (2) hallucinations
 - (3) disorganized speech (e.g., frequent derailment or incoherence)
 - (4) grossly disorganized or catatonic behavior

- B. Duration of an episode of the disturbance is at least 1 day but less than 1 month, with eventual full return to premorbid level of functioning.

- C. The disturbance is not better accounted for by a Mood Disorder With Psychotic Features, Schizoaffective Disorder, or Schizophrenia and is not due to the direct physiological effects of a substance (e.g., a drug of abuse, a medication) or a general medical condition.

Other Psychotic Disorders

Brief Psychotic Disorder

- Major predisposing factor is a personality disorder, especially paranoid, borderline, histrionic, narcissistic, or schizotypal
 - Course tends to be characterized by rapid onset and rapid resolution
 - Treatment usually includes antipsychotic medications, but symptoms often remit with only supportive care (e.g., hospital milieu, reduction in stress, resolution of interpersonal crisis)
-

Other Psychotic Disorders

Shared Psychotic Disorder (“Folie a Deux”)

- A delusion that develops in the context of a close relationship to another person with an established delusion
-

Other Psychotic Disorders

Substance-Induced Psychotic Disorder

- Psychosis associated with intoxication
 - Alcohol
 - Amphetamine (including MDMA)
 - Cannabis
 - Cocaine
 - Hallucinogens
 - Inhalants
 - Opioids
 - Phencyclidine (PCP)
 - Sedatives, hypnotics, anxiolytics

Other Psychotic Disorders

Substance-Induced Psychotic Disorder

- Psychosis associated with withdrawal
 - Alcohol
 - Sedatives, hypnotics, anxiolytics

Other Psychotic Disorders

Substance-Induced Psychotic Disorder

- Psychosis associated with medical treatment
 - High-dose steroids
 - L-Dopa

Other Psychotic Disorders

Psychotic Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition

Common Medical Causes of Psychosis

Neurological:

- Neoplasms
- Cerebrovascular disease
- Huntington's disease
- Seizure disorder
- Auditory nerve injury
- Deafness
- Migraine
- CNS infection

Metabolic:

- Hypoxia
- Hypercarbia
- Hypoglycemia

Endocrine:

- Hyperthyroidism
- Hypothyroidism
- Hyperparathyroidism
- Hypoparathyroidism
- Hypoadrenocorticism

Other:

- Fluid and electrolyte disturbance
- Hepatic disease
- Renal disease
- Autoimmune disorders (e.g., SLE)

Other Psychotic Disorders

Psychotic Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition

- Delirium
- Dementia

Additional Source Information

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Slide 16: American Psychiatric Association: *Diagnostic and Manual of Mental Disorders*, 4th ed, Text Revision (*DSM-IV-TR*), Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, 2000, p. 312

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