

Schizophrenia: Classification, Symptoms and Diagnosis

Classification of Schizophrenia

1. **Disorganised Schizophrenia:**

- Thought disturbances
- Absence of expressed emotion
- Loss of interests in life
- Not goal directed

2. **Catatonic Schizophrenia:**

- Severe motor abnormalities
- Unusual gestures of the body
- Gesture repeatedly
- Complex movements
- Movements have meaning to patient

3. **Paranoid Schizophrenia:**

- Delusional symptoms
- Patient remains emotionally responsive
- More alert and verbal

4. **Undifferentiated Schizophrenia**

- Shows signs of schizophrenia, but doesn't fit into the above categories

Symptoms

Positive:

- An addition of something
- Rare in normal everyday experiences

Negative:

- Something taken away
- Less dramatic

Secondary:

- Consequence of the disorder

Positive Symptoms:

1. Hallucinations:

- Hearing voices
- Can hear own thinking
- Thoughts are loud, others might hear - **Thought Broadcasting.**

2. Delusions:

- Unusual belief, without any supporting evidence
- Believe that other are trying to harm them
- Special meanings in ordinary events
- Grandiose Delusions - exaggerated sense of power, knowledge and identity.

1. Thought Disturbances

- Confused
- Jump between topics
- Lack of concentration
- Can't remember their thoughts

Negative Symptoms

- Lack of energy
- Less dramatic
- Loss of interest in life
- May stop showing emotion, appear lifeless
- Speak in flat toneless voice - flat affect
- Tend to last longer than positive symptoms

Secondary Symptoms

- Consequences of having the disorder
- Break down of relationships
- Loss of employment
- Depression

Diagnosis

- **STIRLING AND HELLEWELL** - One or more positive symptom must be present for diagnosis
- OR - two or negative symptoms could lead to diagnosis
- Must have been apparent for one month
- Effects men and women equally
- Can't be admitted against will

1. **Prodromal Phase:** individual becomes withdrawn and loses interest in work, and school and leisure
2. **Active Phase:** more obvious positive symptoms begin to occur. Duration varies
3. **Residual Phase:** the obvious symptoms begin to disappear

Evaluation

Hearing voices not necessarily indicative of psychotic illness - Surveyed 15,000 non-schizophrenics, 10-15% experiences voices, often after loss.