Psychological Disorders

Categories and Common Symptoms

Classifying Psychological Disorders

- The American Psychiatric Association rendered a Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) to describe psychological disorders.
- The most recent edition, DSM-IV-TR (Text Revision, 2000), describes 400 psychological disorders compared to 60 in the 1950s.

Personality Disorders

- Antisocial: persistent disregard for and violation of other's rights. Treat others as objects. Live for the moment-thrill seekers. No shame or guilt. Do not profit from experience (sociopaths or psychopaths)
- Dependent: patterns of submissiveness and excessive need to be taken care of.
- Obsessive Compulsive: intense interest in being orderly, having control and achieving perfection.
- Paranoid: distrusts others, perceives others as having evil motives.

Anxiety Disorders

Generalized Anxiety Disorder

- Experience continuous anxiety.
- Fearing unknown and unforeseen circumstances, they are unable to make decisions.
- Become preoccupied with internal problems-neglect social relationships.
- Phobic Disorder
 - Severe anxiety focused on a particular object, animal, activity or situation that seems out of proportion to the real dangers involved.
- Panic Disorder

- Experience feelings of sudden, helpless terror (likened to what you might feel like when cornered by a predator).
- Symptoms include sense of smothering, choking, difficulty breathing, faintness, or dizziness.

Anxiety Disorders Con't

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

- A person who has experienced a traumatic event feels severe and long-lasting aftereffects.
- Symptoms include involuntary flashbacks, recurring nightmares, insomnia, and/or feelings of guilt.

Somatoform Disorders

Hypochondriasis

- A person in good health becomes preoccupied with imaginary ailments.
- Spend a lot of time searching for serious ailments, misinterprets minor ailments as early signs of fatal illness.

Dissociative Disorders

Amnesia

- May be an attempt to escape from problems by blotting them out completely.
- Often results from traumatic event .
- Dissociative Identity Disorder (Multiple Personality Disorder)
 - Someone has two or more distinct personalities, each with its own way of thinking and behaving.
 - A way to escape from a part of the self that one fears

Schizophrenia

- withdraw from normal life, and has distorted perceptions and behaviors. Thoughts are disturbed and have lost touch with reality. (Delusions and hallucinations common).
 - Paranoid: hallucinations and delusions of grandeur or persecution.
 - Catatonic: remain motionless for long periods of time, exhibiting a waxy flexibility.
 - Disorganized: incoherent language, inappropriate emotions, disorganized motor behavior, hallucinations and delusions.

Disorganized & Delusional Thinking

This morning when I was at Hillside [Hospital], I was making a movie. I was surrounded by movie stars ... I'm Mary Poppins. Is this room painted blue to get me upset? My grandmother died four weeks after my eighteenth birthday."

(Sheehan, 1982)

This monologue illustrates fragmented, bizarre thinking with distorted beliefs called delusions ("I'm Mary Poppins").

Mood Disorders

• Bipolar Disorder

 Individuals are excessively and inappropriately happy or unhappy. During manic phase, experience elation, confusion, distractibility, racing thoughts, exaggerated self-esteem and irresponsible behavior. During depressive phase, experience feelings of failure, sinfulness, worthlessness, and despair.

Seasonal Affective Disorder

 Develop and maintain depression during winter months.