

Schizophrenia

Introduction

- The schizophrenic disorders are characterized in general by fundamental and characteristic distortions of thinking and perception, and affects that are inappropriate or blunted.
- Clear consciousness and intellectual capacity are usually maintained although certain cognitive deficits may evolve in the course of time.

Schizophrenia

- Schizophrenia occurs with regular frequency nearly everywhere in the world in 1 % of population and begins mainly in young age (mostly around 16 to 25 years).
- The term schizophrenia was coined in 1908 by the swiss psychiatrist Eugen bleuler. The word was derived from the Greek “skhizo” (split) and “phren” (mind).

- Schizophrenia is defined by
 - a group of characteristic positive and negative symptoms
 - deterioration in social, occupational, or interpersonal relationships
 - continuous signs of the disturbance for at least 6 months

- The most important psychopathological phenomena include
 - Thought echo
 - Thought insertion or withdrawal
 - Thought broadcasting
 - Delusional perception and delusions of control
 - Influence or passivity
 - Hallucinatory voices commenting or discussing the patient in the third person
 - Thought disorders and negative symptoms.

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- **Emil Kraepelin:** This illness develops relatively early in life, and its course is likely deteriorating and chronic; deterioration reminded dementia
- **Eugen Bleuler:** He renamed Kraepelin's dementia praecox as schizophrenia (1911); he recognized the cognitive impairment in this illness, which he named as a „splitting“ of mind.
- **Kurt Schneider:** He emphasized the role of psychotic symptoms, as hallucinations, delusions and gave them the privilege of „the first rank symptoms“ even in the concept of the diagnosis of schizophrenia.

4 A (Bleuler)

- Bleuler maintained, that for the diagnosis of schizophrenia are most important the following four fundamental symptoms:
 - Affective blunting
 - Disturbance of association (fragmented thinking)
 - Autism
 - Ambivalence (fragmented emotional response)
- These groups of symptoms, are called „four A' s” and Bleuler thought, that they are „primary” for this diagnosis.

- The other known symptoms, hallucinations, delusions, which are appearing in schizophrenia very often also, he used to call as a “secondary symptoms”, because they could be seen in any other psychotic disease, which are caused by quite different factors — from intoxication to infection or other disease entities.

Course of Illness

- Course of schizophrenia:
 - Continuous without temporary improvement
 - Episodic with progressive or stable deficit
 - Episodic with complete or incomplete remission

Stages of schizophrenia

- Schizoid personality
- Prodromal phase
- Active phase
- Residual phase

Schizoid personality

- The DSM IV –TR (APA) describe this individual as indifferent to social relationships and having a very limited range of emotional experience and expression.
- They do not enjoy close relationships and prefer to be “loner”.
- Cold and aloof.
- Progress to schizophrenia.

Prodromal phase

- Social withdrawal
- Impairment in role functioning
- Behavior that is eccentric.
- Neglect of personal hygiene and grooming
- Blunted and inappropriate affect
- Disturbance in communication
- Lack of interest and energy.

2) Social and occupational dysfunction

3) Duration :

- Continuous sign of disturbances present for at least 6 month.

Residual phase

- It is a period of remission and exacerbation.
- Symptom is like that of prodromal phase.

Clinical Picture

- Diagnostic manuals:
 - **ICD-10** („International Classification of Disease“, WHO)
 - **DSM-IV** („Diagnostic and Statistical Manual“, APA)

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<i>Negative</i>	<i>Positive</i>
Alogia	Hallucinations
Affective flattening	Delusions
Avolition-apathy	Bizarre behaviour
Anhedonia-asociality	Positive formal thought disorder
Attentional impairment	

Sign and symptom

1) Content of thought

Delusion :

- Delusion of persecution
- Delusion of grandeur
- Delusion of reference
- Delusion of control or influence
- Somatic delusion
- Nihilistic delusion

Religiosity

Paranoia

Magical thinking

2) Form of thought

Associative looseness

Neologism

Word salad

Circumstantiality

Tangentiality

Mutism

3) Perception

Hallucination

- Illusion

- Affect

4) Volition

- Emotional ambivalence

- Autism

5) Psychomotor behavior

- Anergia

- Waxy flexibility

References

- <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/schizophrenia/symptoms-causes/syc-20354443#:~:text=Schizophrenia%20is%20a%20serious%20mental,with%20schizophrenia%20require%20lifelong%20treatment.>
- <https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/schizophrenia/what-is-schizophrenia>