

Schizophrenia

- **definition** — mental condition involving distorted perceptions of reality and inability to function in most aspects of life

Clinical Description, Symptoms and Subtypes

- **Psychotic behavior**
Unusual behavior characterized by hallucinations, delusions and loss of contact with reality
- **Positive symptoms**
More active manifestations of abnormal behavior (delusions and hallucinations)
- **Negative symptoms**
Deficit in normal behavior (avolition, alogia, anhedonia, affective flattening)
- **Disorganized symptoms**
Rambling speech, erratic behavior, inappropriate affect

Symptoms

- **NOTE** – 2 or more of these for a month would classify you as a schizophrenic
Can be gradual or abrupt
There are positive and negative symptoms

Positive symptoms

POSITIVE – exaggerations or distortions of normal processes or behaviors:

1-Delusions

- * bizarre or false beliefs about reality
- * Examples...someone out to get them
believe they are famous

2-Hallucinations

- * bizarre, unreal sensory perceptions of the environment
- * Examples ...hearing voices ,feeling bugs crawl on skin
seeing objects or faces ,smelling things

3- Psychosis

- * lack of touch with reality

- * Example...disordered thought process

4- Disorganized thinking or speech

- * Example...speak very little ,change thought mid-sentence

5- Inappropriate Behavior

- * Examples...childlike silliness , violence

6 -Catatonia

- * flexed in a certain position for a period of time

“Waxy Flexibility” – persons arms will remain frozen if moved by someone else for long periods of time -

Negative symptoms

- Flat Effect – absence of normal behavior or emotion

- Examples

- Social withdrawal

- Absence of emotion and expression

- Reduced energy, motivation, and activity

- Poor hygiene

- ** occurs before and after positive symptoms

Types of Schizophrenia

1- Disorganized

- * lack of emotion

- * disorganized speech

- * silly/childlike behavior

- * makes no sense when talking

2. Catatonic

- * waxy flexibility

- * reduced movement
- * rigid posture
- * sometime too much movement

3. Paranoid

- * strong delusions
- * strong hallucinations

4. Undifferentiated / Simple

- * disturbances of thought or behavior or emotion
- * does not fit into another category

Causes...

- Scientists do not know all the causes...
 1. Genetics – “runs in the family”
 2. Prenatal Damage
 - * Malnutrition
 - * Viruses
 3. Environment
 - * Family Stress
 - * Poor Social Interactions
 - * Infections or Viruses at an early age
 - * Trauma at an early age

4-Neurotransmitters (Biological)

- * too much dopamine, low levels of serotonin and glutamate

5. Brain Abnormalities (Biological)

- * reduced number of neurons
- * enlarged ventricles
- * thalamus abnormalities

6. Reinforcement of a bizarre behavior (Behaviorists)

Treatment of Schizophrenia

1. Medication – Anti-psychotic drugs

- * many are made to block and alter dopamine and serotonin receptors
- * not a cure, but reduces symptoms (in 50%)
- * side effects...
 - tremors, dystonia (muscle contraction), restlessness,
 - involuntary/abnormal movements of mouth (40%), weight gain, skin problems

2. Counseling...

- * family counseling / psychological therapy
- * occupational training
- * Goal – make them a useful member of society