

Anxiety Prevalence

More prevalent in women (2:1)

More prevalent in people under 45 y/o

More prevalent in divorced/separated people

More prevalent in people with lower socio-economic status

Panic Disorder

Onset at ~late 20s

Recurrent unexpected panic attacks

Intense physical symptoms

May last weeks, months or years

Close morbidity rate to depression

Women affected 3x more than men

May be affiliated with stressors

Generalized Anxiety Disorder

6 months of unrealistic worry and anxiety

Affects 3% of population

Associated with Major Depressive Disorder

Etiology for Panic and GAD

Psycho-dynamic Theory
Inability of ego to intervene
id and superego produce anxiety
unable to regulate anxiety and resorts to unconscious mechanisms
ineffective use of defence mechanisms

Etiology for Panic and GAD (cont)

Cognitive Theory
Faulty thinking results in maladaptive behaviours and emotional disorders
Anxiety is maintained by dysfunctional assessment of environment

Biological Factors
Genetics
Identical twins: 30%
Close relative: 10-20%
Cholecystokinin production: induce panic attacks
Neuroanatomical
Abnormal levels of blood-lactate
Infusion of Sodium Lactate may precipitate panic attacks
Neurochemical
Norepinephrine: cause anxiety
Serotonin and GABA decrease with panic/anxiety disorders

Levels of Anxiety

Normal

Mild
- Something is different
- Helps person focus attention to learn, solve problems, etc.
- Perceptual field widens slightly
- Alert, more perceptive
- Able to recognize anxiety promote motivation and growth

Moderate
- Disturbing feeling something is wrong
- nervous and agitated
- Difficulty concentrating
- Perceptual field narrows a bit
- Diminished cognitive skills

Severe
- Perceptual field greatly reduced
- Does not notice external events
attention focused on small part of specific area
- Unaware of anxiety
- Increase Vital Signs

Panic
- Focused on defense
- Flight of ideas
- Feels dread and terror



Specific Phobias

Signs and Symptoms

Anxiety response to object or situation
Avoidance of object/situation
Impairment of daily routine
Acknowledge reaction is unreasonable

Anxiety may be triggered

Women 2x as likely to be affected than men

Not diagnosed as a phobia unless interferes with person's function or causes severe distress

Separation Anxiety Disorder

Recurrent distress over leaving home or attachment figure

Excessive worry about the loss of figure

Refusal to leave home

Fear of being alone

Refusal to sleep away from home or figure

Nightmares with separation theme

Physical symptoms

Experience at least three of the above with symptoms lasting 4+ weeks in children/adolescents or 6+ months in adults

Agoraphobia

Panic disorder signs and symptoms

Fears being in places where escaping is difficult or embarrassing if panic does occur

Planes, subways, buses, movie theatres, etc.

May not meet daily commitments (ie. work, grocery shopping, appointments, etc)

Knows behaviour is extreme

More common in women than men

Social Anxiety Disorder

Fear that person might do something embarrassing, or be evaluated negatively by others

fear of public speaking, public eating, using public washrooms

Self-medication with alcohol or street drugs to cope

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