# Cheatography

# Patho of Schizophrenia Cheat Sheet by Shelbi (kfisher17) via cheatography.com/79317/cs/21873/

## PSYCHOSIS

A Sx of mental illness characterized by the loss of contact with reality

Manifestations	Hallucinations			
	Disorganized thoughts and speech			
	Emotions exhibited in an abnormal manner			
Causes				
Functional	Schizophrenia			
	Manic phase of bipolar disorders			
	Psychotic depression			
Organic	Alzheimer's Disease			
	Other causes of dementia			
	Brain tumors			
Drug Abuse	Cocaine			
	Amphetamines			
	PCP ("angel dust")			

## STRUCTURAL ABNORMALITIES IN SZ

Decreased cortical thickness in the absence of gliosis

Reduction in the volume of the frontal love, medial temporal lobe, thalamus, and hippocampus ⇒ increased ventricular size

Decreased blood flow and glucose metabolism in the frontal lobe and left temporal lobe

Abnormal (*excessive*) **synaptic pruning** ⇒ decreased umber of glutamatergic dendritic spines in PFC

Risk is increased if a specific variant in a gene related to synaptic pruning ⇒ Complement Component 4 (C4)

Synaptic Pruning: the process of synapse elimination that occurs between age 2 and onset of puberty

C4: plays a role in the immune system and also in brain development

## Neurotransmitters

Multiple NT systems interact to cause the signs and sx of SZ

Glutamate

Serotonin

### **Positive Symptoms**

Disorganized speech, thoughts, and beliefs

· May lose track of their ideas, meanings, and words (word salad)

• Thought processes are disconnected (loose associations)

 Ideas and images may become jumbled or linked together illogically

 Words and meanings that should be linked may become diconnected

#### **Disorganized Movement and Behaviors**

• May use exaggerated or repeated gestures

• May seem to be fidgeting, hyperactive, or preoccupied with meaningless physical movements

#### **Cognitive Symptoms**

#### **Impaired Attention**

Trouble focusing or paying attention

**Impaired Working Memory** 

· Ability to use information immediately after learning it

#### Poor Executive Function

· Ability to understand information and use it to make decisions

Patients often have difficulty learning from their experiences and can repeatedly make the same mistakes in situations requiring judgment

Poor insight into the severity of their disorder; tend to d/c therapy

SCH	SCHIZOPHRENIA (SZ)		
Epic	Epidemiology		
Onset		Most common in young adults	
		Onset before adolescence or after 40 yr is extremely	
		rare	
		Onset in males occurs earlier than females	
Prev	alence	Equal ( <i>male vs female</i> )	
		In general, better outcomes in females	



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SCHIZOPHRENIA (	(SZ) (cont)	Dopaminergic Pathways in the Brain		
Suicide	~ 15%	Nigrostriatal		
Etiology	Unknown	Originates in the substantia nigra	Projects to the striatum	
	Cause is multifactorial			
Genetics	Significant genetic component with a	Negative Symptoms		
	complex, non-Mendelian inheritance	Alogia and Poverty of Speech		
	Greatest risk factor ⇒ positive family hx	• May speak very little		
	Many genes involved ⇒ pt's inherit several	Speech may have little meaningful content		
	risk genes	May have long delays between words and sentences		
	⇒ SNP's and CNVs	Flattening or Blunting of Affect		
Environmental	Pt's more likely to experience:	May have reduced emotional expression		
	premature birth	May not smile or frown in response to happy or sad events		
	low birth weight	Voices may not change tone or pitch		
	perinatal hypoxia	• May not maintain eye contact or other kinds of emotional links with		
	Maternal viral infxn during pregnancy (espe-	people		
	cially during the 2nd trimester)	Anhedonia and Avolition		
Early Neurodeve- lopmental Defect	Brain vulnerability by genetic predisposition	May seem to lose interest in and energy for pleasurable activities     and achievements		
	Combined with environmental factors or	Lack of desire, drive, or motivation to pursue meaningful goals		
	stressors	Catatonia and Posturing		
	⇒ Abnormal migration of neurons during CNS	May freeze into unusual body positions		
	development	May stop moving entirely		
	⇒ Results in Abnormal neuronal connectivity and abnormal brain circuits	<ul> <li>Sometimes hold rigid poses for hours and will ignore external stimuli</li> </ul>		
	⇔ Schizophrenia	May show stereotyped repetitive movements		
SZ is more frequer	nt in people born in cities and born between	Lack of Motivation and Social With		
January and April (northern hemisphere)			arawar	
		Contribute to poor-self care skills		
SNPs: single nucleotide polymorphisms CNVs: Specific copy number variations		Difficulties maintaining employment	and living independently	

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