

What is schizophrenia?

- > Psychotic disorder that affects 1% (approx.) of the population
- > Sufferers cannot distinguish between reality and their perceptions

Symptoms of schizophrenia

Positive

> an *excess* or *distortion* of normal functions

> e.g. hallucinations (hearing voices, seeing things that aren't there)

> e.g. delusions (unrealistic thoughts - often of threats)

> e.g. psychomotor disturbances (repetitive behaviours)

> e.g. catatonia (same position for hours/days)

Negative

> where normal functions are *limited*

> e.g. speech poverty (inability to produce clear and coherent speech)

> e.g. broadcasting (believing your thoughts are being broadcast to people)

> e.g. avolition (distinct lack of motivation)

> e.g. thought disorders (loose associations)

Diagnosis and classification of schizophrenia

> using DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) or ICD (International Classification of Disease)

> ICD has types of schizophrenia, DSM does not

> DSM at least one positive symptom to be diagnosed, ICD only two negative symptoms

Reliability

> different clinicians using the same system should come to the same diagnosis

> *Jakobson et al (2005)* ~ tested ICD-10 reliability ~ 100 Danish patients with history of psychosis assesses ~ 98% concordance rate

> comorbidity ~ patients can suffer from two or more mental disorders ~ makes it hard to confidently identify schizophrenia

> symptom overlap ~ e.g. major depression and schizophrenia both have low motivation ~ reduces reliability

> gender bias ~ *Loring and Pwell (1988)* found some behaviour was regarded psychotic in males but not in females

Validity

Not published yet.

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