

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.

Last updated 23rd November, 2018.

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