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PSY 342: Psychopathology (OA) - Spring 2023

Chapter Twelve

04/19/2023

**1. Define what is meant by a positive symptom of schizophrenia. Then describe in detail four positive symptoms of schizophrenia.**

The Condition of schizophrenia may develop slowly. The different symptoms include becoming socially withdrawn and unresponsive or changes in sleeping patterns. On the other hand, symptoms in schizophrenia are usually classified into: positive symptoms and negative symptoms. It says positive symptoms are under any change in behavior or thoughts, like hallucination and delusions. In case of *hallucination* are where people sees, hears, smells, tastes or feels things that do not exist. The common hallucination is hearing voices. Research using brain-scanning equipment shows changes in the speech area in the brains of people with schizophrenia when they hear voices. These studies show the experience of hearing voices as a real one, as if the brain mistakes thoughts for real voices. On the other hand, we have *delusions*, a belief, complete conviction, even though it is based on a mistake or unrealistic view. Some people develop a delusional idea to explain a hallucination they're having. For example, if they have heard voices describing their actions, they may have a delusion that someone is monitoring their actions. The third positive symptom is *confused thoughts or thoughts disorder* where people experience psychosis constantly and this causes them to have trouble in continuing their thoughts and conversation. Some people find themselves hard to concentrate on watching tv programmes. And *psychosis*, it is often described by doctors as a type of psychosis. Here many changes in their behavior can occur, becoming upset, anxious, confused, angry, and suspicious of those around them. They may not think they need help; this is one of the reasons it can be hard to persuade them to see a doctor.

**2. Define what is meant by a negative symptom of schizophrenia. Then describe in detail four negative symptoms of schizophrenia.**

The negative symptom is when a person gets apart from the world around them, they do not take any interest in every social interaction and do not show any emotion or emotionlessness. In other words, negative symptoms directly refer to an absence or a lack of mental function involving thinking, behavior, or perception. Also, you can notice a lack of pleasure and then you can notice that the person doesn't enjoy things any more.

The four or the four A's of schizophrenia are *Alogia*, *Autism*, *Ambivalence*, and *Affect blunting*. In schizophrenia Alogia in Greek means without, and in this term is pointing to poor thinking in speech and language usage. Naturally Someone can be quiet, and not talkative, but when you have serious mental illness, brain injury, or dementia. And the lack of conversation is called Alogia or poverty of speech. The different symptoms of alogia If you have alogia, you might: Pause for a long time between words. Give short or one-word responses. Answer only what someone asks you. Have a flat tone in your voice. Have dull facial expressions. Use limited sign language (if you can't hear).

In schizophrenia *Autism* has been described as Specifically, autism spectrum disorder is a developmental disability that is caused by differences in the brain. People with ASD mostly have problems communicating and interacting with other people. Studies pointed out that having any psychotic disorders, including schizophrenia, comes with an above-average risk for having autism as well. The connection between autism and schizophrenia is the social withdrawal and detachment from reality so often observed in children with schizophrenia.

*Ambivalence* is the state of having mixed or even contradictory ideas about something or someone. Experts explain that Ambivalence as a construct was described by Bleuler as one of the four primary symptoms of schizophrenia and was defined as "positive and negative [emotions] at one and the same time." For example, ambivalence in schizophrenia shows an individual expressing great love for his or her mother while also asking how to kill her, a major symptom of the disorder.

Lastly, *Affect blunting* is a prominent symptom of schizophrenia and it also describes the difficulty for an individual to express their emotions. The individual might show little feelings in emotional contexts. For example, a person recalling their father's death might simply recount the factual details of the death. The person might not have shared much information about how they felt. Patients with blunted affect have difficulty expressing their emotions, which is characterized

by diminished facial expression, expressive gestures, and vocal expressions in reaction to emotion-provoking stimuli.

### **3. Explain the diathesis-stress model of schizophrenia.**

The Dictionary of Psychology pointed out that the theory that mental and physical disorders develop from a genetic or biological predisposition for that illness (diathesis) combined with stressful conditions that play a precipitating or facilitating role. Also, As such, Meehl's model suggests that schizophrenia results from an interaction between individuals' inherited characteristics and their environmental experiences. For example, children who have a family history of depression are generally more vulnerable to developing a depressive disorder themselves. These components may include aggression and/or impulsivity, pessimism and hopelessness, and problem-solving or cognitive rigidity. Lastly, the diathesis-stress model asserts that if the combination of the predisposition and the stress exceeds a threshold, the person will develop a disorder. The diathesis-stress model supposes that mental health disorders are caused by a predisposition and stress. Researchers suggest that this combination of predisposition and stress is why some individuals develop mental disorders and others do not.

### **4. Discuss evidence that supports the view of a genetic predisposition for schizophrenia.**

Schizophrenia tends to run in families, but no single gene is thought to be responsible. Studies say that evidence that the disorder is partly inherited comes from studies of twins. Identical twins share the same genes. In identical twins, if a twin develops schizophrenia, the other twin has a 1 in 2 chance of developing it, too. This is true even if they're raised separately. Schizophrenia tends to run in families, but no single gene is thought to be responsible. Studies of people with schizophrenia have shown there are subtle differences in the structure of their brains.

These changes are not seen in everyone with schizophrenia and can occur in people who do not have a mental illness. Also, neurotransmitters are chemicals that carry messages between brain cells. There's a connection between neurotransmitters and schizophrenia because drugs that alter the levels of neurotransmitters in the brain are known to relieve some of the symptoms of schizophrenia. Research suggests schizophrenia may be caused by a change in the level of 2 neurotransmitters: dopamine and serotonin.

### Resources:

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/schizophrenia/symptoms/#:~:text=The%20symptoms%20of%20schizophrenia%20are,often%20appear%20emotionless%20and%20flat>  
<https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/what-is-alogia#:~:text=Some%20people%20are%20naturally%20quiet,or%20%E2%80%9Cpoverty%20of%20speech.%E2%80%9D>  
[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4394623/#:~:text=Ambivalence%20as%20a%20construct%20was,\(Bleuler%2C%201950%2C%20p.](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4394623/#:~:text=Ambivalence%20as%20a%20construct%20was,(Bleuler%2C%201950%2C%20p.)  
<https://dictionary.apa.org/ambivalence>  
<https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/psychpedia/blunted-affect#:~:text=Someone%20with%20a%20blunted%20affect,speak%20in%20a%20monotone%20voice.>  
<https://ftherehab.com/learning/diatheses-stress-trigger-disorder#:~:text=The%20diathesis%20stress%20model%20supposes,disorders%20and%20others%20do%20not.>  
<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/conditions/schizophrenia/causes/#:~:text=Evidence%20that%20the%20disorder%20is,if%20they're%20raised%20separately.>