

SCHIZOPHRENIA

Schizophrenia is severe and reoccurring mental disorder that usually has its onset in adolescent. It affects approximately 1% of the population and causes people to think and act strangely. Schizophrenia is recognized by delusional thinking, hallucinations, disintegration of the personality, and stymied or distorted emotional responses. Early signs may occur two to six years before onset (Evans, et al., 2005) (see Figure 7.7).

Figure 7.7 Early signs of schizophrenia.

- Reduced concentration, attention
- Decreased motivation, drive, and energy
- Mood changes: depression, anxiety
- Sleep difficulties
- Social withdrawal
- Suspiciousness
- Irritability
- Decline in role functioning (giving less to academic performance, quitting established interests, neglecting appearance)

Symptoms or behaviors related to schizophrenia are listed in Figure 7.8 (MACMH, 2010).

Figure 7.8 Symptoms or behaviors associated with schizophrenia

- Confusing thinking
- Vivid and bizarre thoughts and ideas
- Hallucinations: hearing, seeing, feeling, or smelling things that are not real or present
- Delusions: having beliefs that are fixed and false
- Severe anxiety and fearfulness
- Extreme moodiness
- Severe problems in making and keeping friends
- Feeling that people are hostile and out to get them
- Odd behavior, including behavior resembling that of a younger child
- Disorganized speech
- Lack of motivation

The DSM-IV-TR (2000) recognizes five subtypes or categories of schizophrenia: paranoid, disorganized, catatonic, undifferentiated, and residual.

Paranoid Type Schizophrenia

Persons suffering from this form of schizophrenia experience systematic delusions and auditory hallucinations that focus on or around a specific such as (a) delusions of grandeur where persons believes they are an important or exalted being; (b) delusions of persecution where persons believe they are being persecuted, spied on, plotted against, or somebody is trying to kill them; or (c) delusions of jealousy where persons becomes convinced that their mate or spouse is unfaithful without evidence. Persons suffering from paranoid schizophrenia maintain most if not all of cognitive functioning and affect or emotional response. Other symptoms include: jealousy, religiosity, anxiety, anger, aloofness, and argumentativeness.

Disorganized Type Schizophrenia

Persons suffering from disorganized type schizophrenia display incoherent patterns of thinking and speech, disorganized and grossly bizarre behavior. Their emotions are either flat or totally inappropriate to the situation

Catatonic Type Schizophrenia

Persons suffering from catatonic type schizophrenia typically display some sort of disruption in normal motor activity. They may maintain a rigid posture, remain motionless for long periods of time, or show little or

no reaction to anything in their environment. Some people with catatonic schizophrenia also demonstrate excessive motor activity that is not influenced by anything in the external environment

Undifferentiated Type Schizophrenia

Person's suffering from undifferentiated type schizophrenia usually display a mix of symptoms without falling into any of the other categories. These symptoms include delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech, and grossly disorganized or catatonic behavior.

Residual Type Schizophrenia

Residual type schizophrenia is when a person has experienced at least one episode of Schizophrenia but is currently free of any symptoms or displays only minor symptoms.

Andrew P. Johnson, Ph.D.
Minnesota State University, Mankato
www.OPDT-Johnson.com
dr.andy@charter.net