



# Psychopathology

(Symptoms and Signs in Psychiatry)

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# Objectives

- To define symptom and sign.
- To describe the positive and negative features in psychiatry.
- To describe symptoms and signs in psychiatry.



# Sign Vs Symptoms

- Signs are *objective*; symptoms are *subjective*
- Signs are the clinician's observations
- Symptoms are subjective experiences
- In psychiatry, signs and symptoms are not as clearly demarcated as in other fields of medicine; they often overlap.
- Disorders in psychiatry are often described as syndromes.



# Mental Disorder

- Comprise a broad range of problems.
- Characterized by some combination of abnormal thoughts, emotions, behavior and relationships with others.
- Mental illnesses are associated with distress and/or problems functioning in social, work or family activities.



# Sign & symptoms

- Sleep or appetite changes.

- Mood changes.

- Withdrawal —

Recent social withdrawal and loss of interest in activities previously enjoyed

- Impairment in functioning —

An unusual drop in functioning, at school, work or social activities, such as quitting sports, failing in school or difficulty performing familiar tasks



# Con't

- **Problems thinking —**

Problems with concentration, memory or logical thought and speech that are hard to explain

- **Increased sensitivity —**

Heightened sensitivity to sights, sounds, smells or touch; avoidance of over-stimulating situations

- **Apathy —**

Loss of initiative or desire to participate in any activity.

- **Feeling disconnected —**

A vague feeling of being disconnected from oneself or one's surroundings; a sense of unreality



# Con't

- **Illogical thinking —**

Unusual or exaggerated beliefs about personal powers to understand meanings or influence events; illogical or “magical” thinking typical of childhood in an adult

- **Nervousness —**

Fear or suspiciousness of others or a strong nervous feeling

- **Unusual behavior —**

Odd, uncharacteristic, peculiar behavior



# How many sx you have?

WHY ARE MY EYES RED?!?

microbiology  
pathology  
histology



**Doctor mode activate!**

Sarcoidosis  
Conjunctivitis  
-Staph, strep, pneumonococcus,  
gonococcus, adenovirus,  
Eagle's syndrome

Keratitis fugax hereditaria  
Ollivier syndrome  
Polycythemia  
Queensland tick typhus  
Sandfly fever  
Yellow Fever



yeah.. uh... it's just allergies.  
Take some Claritin and  
you'll be fine

(real doctor)



...







## Facts about sign and symptoms

- Could be part of illness. (e.g paranoid delusion, auditory hallucination..etc)
- Part of mental status (e.g circumstantiality, restless .. etc)
- Description of type of the illness or prominent feature ( schizophrenia with positive or negative feature)



# *POSITIVE vs NEGATIVE FEATURES*

## **Positive features**

Major disturbances in :

- perception e.g. hallucination.
- Thinking e.g. delusions.
- Mood e.g. extreme euphoria.
- Behavior e.g. violence

## **Negative features**

- Poverty of thoughts & speech.
- Lack of ambition, interest & initiation.
- Restricted affect.
- Self-neglect.
- Poor self care & hygiene



# Positive and Negative Symptoms of Schizophrenia

**Positive +**  
presence of  
problematic  
behaviors

- Hallucinations (illusory perceptions), especially auditory
- Delusions (illusory beliefs), especially persecutory
- Disorganized thought and nonsensical speech
- Bizarre behaviors

**Negative -**  
absence of  
healthy  
behaviors

- Flat affect (no emotion showing in the face)
- Reduced social interaction
- Anhedonia (no feeling of enjoyment)
- Avolition (less motivation, initiative, focus on tasks)
- Alogia (speaking less)
- Catatonia (moving less)



# MSE

## Mental State Examination (MSE)

The aim of the MSE is to elicit the patient's **CURRENT psychopathology** – no historical details.

It collects both **Objective and Subjective Information**:

- **Objective** – what you observe about the patient **DURING** the interview
  - **Appearance, Behaviour, Speech, Cognition and Mood**
- **Subjective** – the patient's **CURRENT** psychological symptoms
  - **Mood, Thoughts, Perception and Insight**

### Appearance:

- **Demographics**
  - Gender / Apparent Age / Racial Origin
- **Physique, Hair and Make-up**
- **Clothing Style**
  - E.g. Manic patients – bright / oddly assorted clothes
- **Cleanliness**
  - Look for signs of self-neglect e.g. Dirty, unkempt, stained or crumpled clothing
- **Weight Loss**
  - Consider bio-psycho-social causes, for example: Cancer vs. Anorexia vs. Financial Difficulties

### Behaviour:

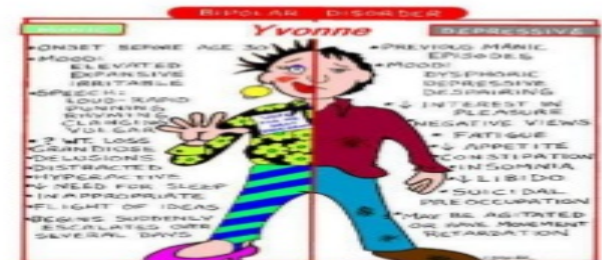
- **Rapport**
  - **Attitude:** Relaxed/ Co-operative/ Suspicious/ Guarded/ Pre-occupied/ Over Familiar
  - **Eye Contact** – Avoidant / Appropriate / Intense
- **Psychomotor Activity:** Agitation vs. Retardation
- **Movement disorders**
  - **Tics** = Irregular repeated movements, in a group of muscles e.g. Sideways head
  - **Choreiform Movements** = Co-ordinated, brief, involuntary movements e.g. Grimacing
  - **Dystonia** = Painful muscle spasm which may lead to contortions
- **Signs of Impending Violence**
  - Restlessness/ Sweating / Clenched Fists / Pointing Fingers / Raised Voice
  - Intruding onto the interviewer's Personal Space

### Speech:

- Physical characteristics only – content comes under 'Thoughts'
- **Quantity:**
  - **Pressure of Speech:** Rapid, 'can't get a word in', lengthy speech – typical of Mania
  - **Poverty of Speech:** Minimal Responses e.g. Yes / No – typical of Depression
- **Quality:**
  - **Volume:** Loud (Mania) or Quiet (Depressive)
  - **Tone and Fluency**
  - **Spontaneity:** Prompt Response (Mania) and Slow response (Intoxicated / Depressed)

### Mood (or Affect)

- Change in mood = **Commonest symptom of a psychiatric disorder**
- **Should be documented both Subjectively and Objectively:**
  - **Subjective Mood**
    - Ask the patient **'How are you feeling in yourself?'**
    - Document their response without alteration – record any other details in Hx
  - **Objective Mood**
    - **Nature of mood** during examination, if no mood is noted = 'Euthymic'





## Brief Mental Status Exam (MSE) Form

<b>1. Appearance</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>casual dress, normal grooming and hygiene</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	
<b>2. Attitude</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>calm and cooperative</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	
<b>3. Behavior</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>no unusual movements or psychomotor changes</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	
<b>4. Speech</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>normal rate/tone/volume w/out pressure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	
<b>5. Affect</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>reactive and mood congruent</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>labile</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>tearful</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>blunted</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>normal range</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>depressed</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>constricted</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>flat</i>
<b>6. Mood</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>euthymic</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>irritable</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>elevated</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>anxious</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>depressed</i>
<b>7. Thought Processes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>goal-directed and logical</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>disorganized</i>
<b>8. Thought Content</b>	<b>Suicidal ideation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>None</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>passive</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>active</i> If active:      yes                      no plan <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> intent <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> means <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Homicidal ideation:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>None</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>passive</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>active</i> If active:      yes                      no plan <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> intent <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> means <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>delusions</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>phobias</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>obsessions/ compulsions</i>
<b>9. Perception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>no hallucinations or delusions during interview</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	
<b>10. Orientation</b>	Oriented: <input type="checkbox"/> <i>time</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>place</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>person</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>self</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	
<b>11. Memory/ Concentration</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>short term intact</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other (describe):</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>long term intact</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>distractable/ inattentive</i>
<b>12. Insight/Judgement</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>good</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>fair</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>poor</i>	

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Practitioner Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Patient Name**  
[http://www.apshealthcare.com/provider/documents/brief\\_mental\\_status.pdf](http://www.apshealthcare.com/provider/documents/brief_mental_status.pdf)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ID#**



# Mood Vs Affect

## Mood

- The long term feeling state through which all experience are filtered.
- the emotional background
- Last days to weeks.
- Changes spontaneously, not related to internal or external stimuli.
- Symptom (ask patient)

## Affect

- the visible and audible manifestations of the patients emotional response to external and internal events .
- The emotional foreground
- Momentary , seconds to hours.
- Changes according to internal & external stimuli,
- observed by others (sign)(Current emotional state)



# Mood & Affect

## **Euthymia**

*Normal range of mood*, implying absence of depressed or elevated mood.



## **Depression**

Psychopathological feeling of sadness.



## **Anhedonia**

Loss of interest in, and withdrawal from, all regular and pleasurable activities. Often associated with depression.



# Mood & Affect

## **Elation**

Feelings of joy, euphoria, triumph, and intense self-satisfaction or optimism.

## **Elevated mood**

Air of confidence and enjoyment; a mood more cheerful than normal but not necessarily pathological.

## **Euphoria**

Exaggerated feeling of well-being that is inappropriate to real events.

## **Expansive mood**

Expression of feelings without restraint, frequently with an overestimation of their significance or importance.





# Mood & Affect

## **Anxiety**

Feeling of apprehension caused by anticipation of danger, which may be internal or external.

## **Agitation**

Severe anxiety associated with motor restlessness.

## **Flat affect**

Little to no display of emotion





If you won 1 million \$, your reaction will be:

Buzzle.



Normal  
Affect



Constricted  
Affect



Blunted  
Affect



# Thought: form & content

## Form Vs. content

### Types of Formal thought disorders:

#### **Flight of ideas**

Rapid, continuous verbalizations or plays on words produce constant shifting from one idea to another

#### **Loosening of associations**

Flow of thought in which ideas from one subject to another in a completely unrelated way

#### **Circumstantiality**

Indirect speech that is delayed in reaching the point but eventually gets from original point to desired goal

#### **Tangentiality**

the train of thought of the speaker wanders and shows a lack of focus, never returning to the initial topic of the conversation



# Thought: form & content

## **Derailment**

Gradual or sudden deviation in train of thought without blocking

## **Blocking**

Abrupt interruption in the train of thinking before a thought or an idea is finished

## **Incoherence**

Communication that is disconnected, disorganized, or incomprehensible.

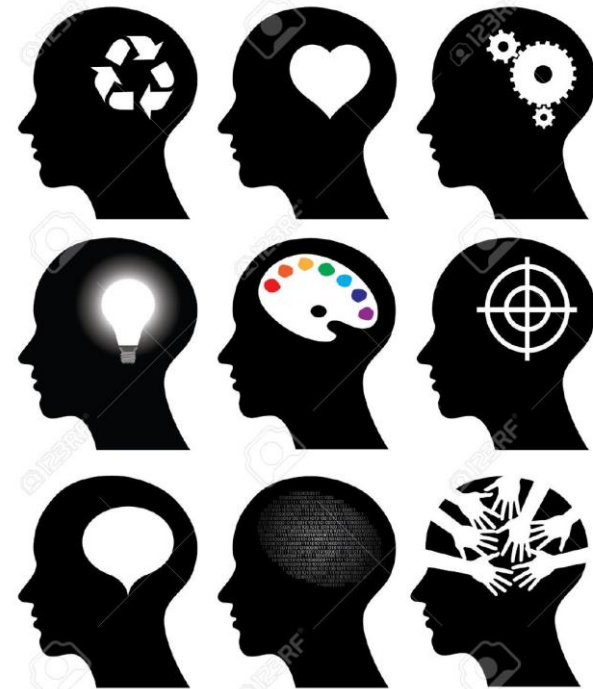
## **Word salad**

Incoherent, essentially incomprehensible, mixture of words and phrases



# Content of thought

- **Poverty**
- **Delusion**
- **Overvalued idea**
- **Preoccupation**
- **Obsession**
- **Compulsion**
- **Suicidal ideation**
- **Homicidal ideations**







# Content of thought

## **Obsession**

Persistent and recurrent idea, image, or impulse that cannot be eliminated from consciousness by logic or reasoning

## **Compulsion**

Pathological need to act on an impulse that, if resisted, produces anxiety; repetitive behavior in response to an obsession or performed according to certain rules, with no true end in itself other than to prevent something from occurring in the future.





# Content of thought

## **Preoccupation of thought**

Centering of thought content on a particular idea, associated with a strong affective tone, such as a paranoid trend or a suicidal or homicidal preoccupation



## **Overvalued idea**

False or unreasonable belief or idea that is sustained beyond the bounds of reason. It is held with less intensity or duration than a delusion, but is usually associated with mental illness



# Content of thought

**Delusion:** False belief, based on incorrect inference about external reality, that is firmly held despite objective and obvious contradictory proof or evidence and despite the fact that other members of the culture do not share the belief.

**Delusion of control**

**Delusion of grandeur**

**Delusion of infidelity**

**Delusion of persecution**

**Delusion of reference**

**Somatic delusion**

**Nihilistic delusion**





# Themes of delusion



# Delusion

## Passivity Phenomena

### **Thought insertion**

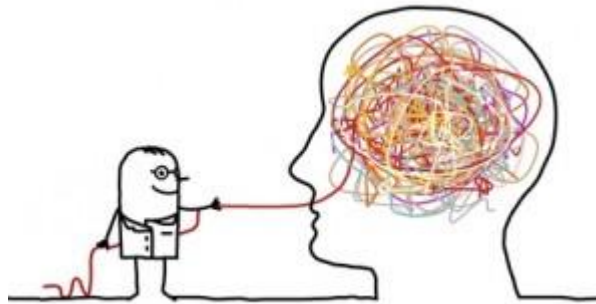
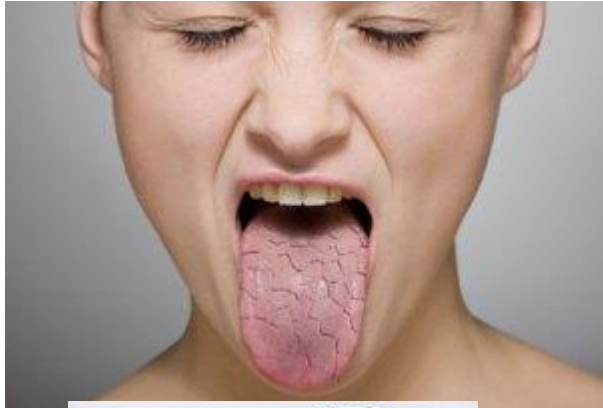
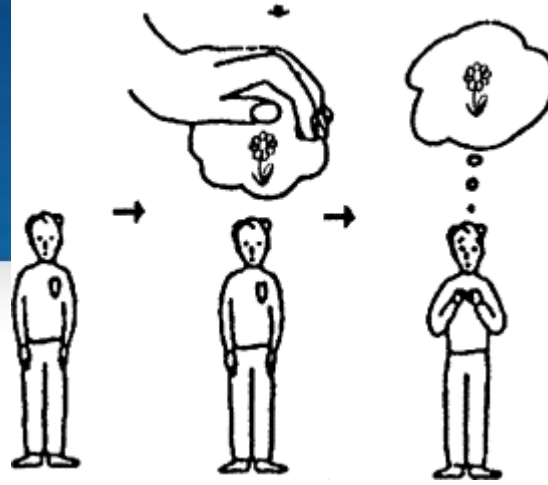
Delusion that thoughts are being implanted in one's mind by other people or forces.

### **Thought withdrawal**

Delusion that one's thoughts are being removed from one's mind by other people or forces.

### **Thought broadcasting**

Delusion that one's thoughts are being broadcast or projected into the environment.





**Preoccupation**

**Overvalued  
idea**

**Delusion**



# Perception

Conscious awareness of elements in the environment by the mental processing of sensory stimuli

## **Hallucination**

False sensory perception occurring in the absence of any relevant external stimulation of the sensory modality involved

**Auditory, visual, olfactory, gustatory, tactile.**

## **Illusion**

Perceptual misinterpretation of a real external stimulus.



**THIS IST THE END OF OUR  
PRESENTATION**

**ANY QUESTIONS ?**





THANK YOU  
FOR  
LISTENING