**Module 12: Schizophrenia Spectrum And Other Psychotic Disorders**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**12.1. Clinical Presentation**

* List and describe distinguishing features that make up the clinical presentation of schizophrenia spectrum disorders.
* Describe how schizophrenia presents.
* Describe how schizophreniform disorder presents.
* Describe how schizoaffective disorder presents.
* Describe how delusional disorder presents.

**12.2. Epidemiology**

* Describe the epidemiology of schizophrenia spectrum disorders.

**12.3. Comorbidity**

* Describe the comorbidity of schizophrenia spectrum disorders.

**12.4. Etiology**

* Describe the biological causes of schizophrenia spectrum disorders.
* Describe the psychological causes of schizophrenia spectrum disorders.
* Describe the sociocultural causes of schizophrenia spectrum disorders.

**12.5. Treatment**

* Describe psychopharmacological treatment options for schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders.
* Describe psychological treatment options for schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders.
* Describe family interventions for schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders.

KEY TERMS

**Adrenocorticotropic Hormone (ACTH)**: A hormone produced by the pituitary gland that stimulates the adrenal glands to release cortisol, involved in stress response.

**Alogia**: A negative symptom in schizophrenia, characterized by a poverty of speech, which means a reduction in the amount or content of speech.

**Aripiprazole (Abilify)**: An atypical antipsychotic drug used to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, also effective in managing both positive and negative symptoms of these disorders.

**Asociality**: A symptom of schizophrenia characterized by a lack of interest in social interactions and relationships.

**Atypical Antipsychotic Drugs**: A class of antipsychotic drugs that typically have fewer side effects than older antipsychotics, used in the treatment of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

**Avolition**: A negative symptom of schizophrenia, characterized by a lack of motivation or inability to engage in goal-directed activities.

**Bizarre Type**: A category of delusions in schizophrenia that are extremely implausible and not derived from ordinary life experiences.

**Brief Psychotic Disorder**: A mental disorder characterized by a short-term (less than one month) period of psychotic symptoms such as delusions, hallucinations, or disorganized speech.

**Catatonic Behavior**: A type of behavior seen in some psychiatric conditions where the individual shows marked psychomotor disturbances, which can include stupor, rigidity, or posturing.

**Catatonic Excitement**: A form of catatonic behavior characterized by hyperactivity and agitated, uncontrolled movements.

**Circumstantial Speech**: A speech pattern where a person includes unnecessary and often tedious details in their conversation but eventually reaches their point.

**Clozapine (Clozaril)**: An atypical antipsychotic medication used to treat schizophrenia, particularly effective in patients who do not respond to other antipsychotic drugs.

**Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone (CRH)**: A hormone released by the hypothalamus that triggers the release of ACTH, playing a role in the stress response.

**Delusional Disorder**: A mental disorder characterized by the presence of one or more delusions with a duration of one month or longer, without other symptoms of schizophrenia.

**Delusions**: False beliefs that are firmly held despite clear or obvious evidence to the contrary, common in various psychiatric conditions, especially schizophrenia.

**Delusions of Control**: A type of delusion where an individual believes their thoughts, feelings, or actions are being controlled by external forces.

**Delusions of Grandeur**: A type of delusion where a person has an exaggerated belief in their own importance, power, or identity.

**Delusions of Persecution**: Delusions where an individual believes they are being plotted against, spied on, slandered, threatened, or otherwise persecuted.

**Delusions of Reference**: A type of delusion where individuals believe that ordinary, incidental events or occurrences in the environment are directed at or have special significance to them.

**Delusions of Thought Broadcasting**: A delusional belief that one's thoughts are being broadcast out loud so that others can hear them.

**Delusions of Thought Withdrawal**: The belief that one's thoughts have been 'removed' by some outside force.

**Derailment**: A pattern of speech where a person suddenly changes the topic to unrelated areas, making it difficult for others to follow their train of thought.

**Diathesis-Stress Model**: A psychological theory that attempts to explain a disorder, or its trajectory, as the result of an interaction between a predispositional vulnerability and a stress caused by life experiences.

**Diminished Emotional Expression**: A reduction in the expression of emotions through facial expressions, voice tone, and the apparent lack of feelings.

**Disorganized Thinking (Speech)**: A symptom of some psychiatric disorders where speech is characterized by a lack of clear and coherent communication.

**Erotomanic Delusion**: A type of delusion where a person believes that someone, usually of higher status, is in love with them.

**Expressed Emotion**: A measure of the family environment based on how family members speak about the patient; high levels of criticism, hostility, or emotional over-involvement are indicators of high expressed emotion.

**Family Dysfunction**: Patterns of interaction among family members that are maladaptive and lead to conflicts, miscommunications, or the perpetuation of mental disorders.

**Glucocorticoids**: A group of steroid hormones, of which cortisol is the most significant in humans, involved in the body's response to stress.

**Grandiose Delusion**: A false belief of one's own superiority,

**Hallucinations**: Perceptions in any sensory modality without an external stimulus, with a compelling sense of their reality. For example, auditory or visual hallucinations.

**Illogicality**: A thought disorder in which reasoning processes are disturbed, and conclusions are not logically derived from premises.

**Incoherent Speech**: Speech that is difficult to understand due to irregular or illogical thoughts and disconnected ideas.

**Jealous Delusion**: A delusion where an individual falsely believes that their spouse or sexual partner is unfaithful.

**Mixed Type**: A specifier used in diagnosis to indicate a mix of different types of symptoms or features in a disorder.

**Mutism**: A disorder characterized by an inability or unwillingness to speak, often as a part of another psychological or neurological condition.

**Negative Symptoms**: Symptoms of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders that involve a deficit or loss in normal functions, such as blunted affect, alogia, or avolition.

**Persecutory Delusion**: The false belief that one is being persecuted, harassed, or conspired against.

**Positive Symptoms**: Symptoms of schizophrenia that represent an excess or distortion of normal functions, such as hallucinations or delusions.

**Posturing**: A symptom in catatonic schizophrenia where the person maintains unusual and sustained body positions.

**Prodromal**: An early set of symptoms that might indicate the start of a disease before specific symptoms occur.

**Psychoeducation**: Educational interventions aimed at teaching patients with psychiatric conditions about their condition and how to deal with it.

**Psychosis**: A severe mental disorder characterized by a disconnection from reality, which may include delusions, hallucinations, and disordered thinking.

**Residual**: A phase of schizophrenia or another psychotic disorder where the patient no longer displays prominent symptoms.

**Rigidity**: A symptom seen in catatonia characterized by stiffness and inflexibility of the limbs.

**Risperidone (Risperdal)**: An atypical antipsychotic drug used to treat schizophrenia and other forms of psychosis.

**Schizoaffective Disorder**: A mental disorder characterized by the combination of schizophrenia symptoms, such as hallucinations or delusions, and mood disorder symptoms, like depression or mania.

**Schizophrenia**: A mental disorder characterized by delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech and behavior, and other symptoms that cause social or occupational dysfunction.

**Schizophreniform Disorder**: A mental disorder diagnosed when symptoms of schizophrenia are present for a significant portion of the time within a one-month period but less than six months.

**Social Skills Training**: A therapy approach that teaches individuals how to interact more effectively and comfortably with others.

**Somatic Delusion**: A false belief that one's bodily functions or appearance are grossly abnormal or diseased.

**Stress-Vulnerability Model**: A model that explains mental disorders as resulting from the interaction between environmental stress and genetic vulnerability.

**Stupor**: A state of near-unconsciousness or insensibility, often found in severe cases of catatonia.

**Tardive Dyskinesia**: A side effect of some antipsychotic drugs, characterized by repetitive, involuntary movements, often involving the tongue and mouth.

**Tangential Speech**: The phenomenon in which a person constantly digresses to random, irrelevant ideas and topics. For example, the person might start telling a story but loads the story down with so much irrelevant detail that they never get to the point or the conclusion.

**Unspecified Type**: A diagnostic label used when a disorder does not fit into any specific category or when there is insufficient information to make a more specific diagnosis.