

Somatoform Disorders



Ch.6-Somatoform Disorders

Module Objectives



- What are Somatoform Disorders?
 - What are some forms of somatoform disorders?
- What are the causes for these disorders?
- How can they be treated?



Somatoform disorders occur when psychological

I think I'm dying...
 Hypochondriasis is a

The fear or idea is based on the

Almost any physical sensation may become the basis for concern. Some may focus on heart rate, perspiration, pain, or something minor, like a cough.

Does assurance from doctors reduce this worry?

THINK



❧

People with Hypochondriasis often see many doctors,
looking for someone to confirm the illness.



Who does this disorder affect?

❧

❧ The prevalence of this disorder in the general population is not fully known, it is approximated that this affects about _____

❧ Throughout history this disorder was typically associated with women as a "hysterical" disorder.

❧ _____

Prevalence

❧

❧ Hypochondriasis may emerge at any time in life, with peak age periods in adolescence, middle ages (40-50's), and after 60.

❧ It is widely agreed that Hypochondriasis is a disorder of _____

-Research has confirmed that patients with hypochondriasis show enhanced perceptual sensitivity to illness cues.

People with this disorder also

❧

This causes them to become quickly

Patients with hypochondriasis have a high rate of comorbidity. In one study, 88% of patients with hypochondriasis had one or more concurrent disorders.

- _____
- Dysthymic disorder (45.2%)
- _____
- Somatization disorder (21.4%)
- _____

❧ These patients are 3 times more likely to have a personality disorder than the general population (Barsky, 1992).

Treatment

❧

❧ CBT focuses on identifying and challenging illness-related misinterpretations and showing patients how they can create symptoms by focusing attention on certain body parts.

- CBT showed a 76% improvement rate (Warwick et al., 1996)

❧ Medications are seldom used, but SSRI's may be considered.

Conversion Disorder



This term was made famous by Freud, who believed the anxiety resulted from unconscious

Conversion Disorder



Conversion disorders tend to be associated with physical

- Paralysis
- Blindness
- Difficulty speaking


This affects 1-3% of those referred to mental health services



Those who report blindness often can avoid objects in their visual field, as well as those reporting paralysis of the legs might get up and run somewhere in an emergency and are astounded they were able to do this.

-This can account for some who are miraculously "cured" during religious ceremonies.





LIAR, LIAR, PANTS ON FIRE


Unlike conversion disorders that are not under the person's physical control,

Why are you such a faker?

☞ Somewhere in between conversion and faking physical symptoms are _____

☞ People with this disorder fake physical or psychological symptoms to become a patient for psychological reasons

- Commonly referred to as _____
- No apparent gain except sympathy and attention.



☞ _____

- Contaminating urine samples with blood
- Taking hallucinogens
- Injecting themselves with bacteria to produce infections

Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy



☞ This disorder is a factitious disorder, but really an _____

☞ The parent may resort to extreme tactics to create the _____

-Usually establish a positive relationship with the medical staff.



The caregiver may exaggerate, fabricate, or induce symptoms.



Children effected are typically preschool age, although there have been reported cases in children up to 16 years old.

Who does this disorder effect?



There are equal numbers of boys and girls, _____



Statistics



☞ Conversion disorders are relatively rare in mental health settings, often because people with these symptoms are more likely to consult a neurologist or specialists.

☞ It was concluded that environmental stress, especially sexual abuse, are common among children and adolescents with conversion disorder (Roelofs et al., 2002).

Treatment



☞ Few studies have evaluated the effectiveness of treatment, but the principle strategy is to identify and attend to the traumatic/stressful life event, if it is still present and remove the sources of secondary gain.

What's Next?



☞ Dissociative Identity Disorders
