

How do we diagnose psychological disorders?

Chapter 3- Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis

Class Objectives

- How are psychological disorders diagnosed?
- What is Clinical Assessment and why is it used?
- What assessment methods do professionals use?

What is Clinical Assessment?

Clinical assessment is a systematic evaluation and measurement that measures:

- _____
- _____
- _____

in a person who _____ have a psychological disorder.

Clinical Assessment



This is the process of determining whether a presenting problem _____ for a specific psychological disorder

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The diagnosis of a psychological disorder represents a way of classifying patterns of abnormal behavior

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Universal standards

History of "Insane Asylums"

Classification is the core of scientific study, which

Universal standards _____

To be diagnosed with a psychological disorder very specific criteria must be met.

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What makes an assessment method valuable?

Reliability:

- _____ ?

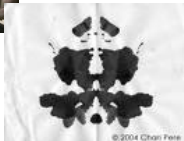


- Does the assessment measure what it is designed to measure?

Standardization

- Does this device meet the standards to be used consistently across different measurements? 7

Different Forms of Assessment



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Clinical Interview

Information is gathered by the professional to make a clear picture of the client's life:

- Current and past behavior
- Attitudes and emotions
- Social and interpersonal history
- Presenting problem
- Orientation



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Mental Status Exam

A systematic observation of a person's behavior



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What are some things you observe when you meet someone for the first time?

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Mental status exams cover five general areas:

- I. _____
 - Overt physical behaviors, appearance, body language, facial expression
- A. Posture, motor activity, eye contact, attitude towards the examiner, grooming and hygiene

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2. _____
- Are thoughts linear and organized?
 - Are thoughts flighty and disorganized?
 - Are there delusions/hallucinations present?
 - Do they demonstrate insight?
 - Reasoning/judgment?

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Methods of Assessing Thought Processes

- ☐ _____ (irrelevance)
- ☐ Flight of ideas (change topics)
- ☐ _____
- ☐ Word salad (_____)
- ☐ Clanging (rhyming words)
- ☐ Poverty (limited content)

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Mental Status



3. Mood and affect:
- ☐ _____
 - Depressed, "anxious," "good," and "tired"
 - Does the person appear "down" or elated?
- ☐ Affect refers to the feelings or _____
- Is it "appropriate"? You feel sad...you look sad.
 - Euthymic (normal), blunted (minimal variation), and flat affect (no variation).

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Mental Status

4. _____
- ☐ Vocabulary and memory testing are used to help determine level of intellectual functioning
 - Repeat these 3 words: 'pen,' 'chair,' 'flag'
 - The "serial 7s"
 - Abstracts and metaphors
 - Proverbs

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Mental Status

5. Sensorium refers to our _____

- ☐ Clinicians assess a person's orientation to time, place and person.
 - ☐ "Is the person oriented times 3?"
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

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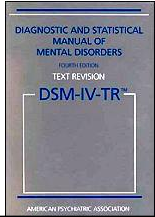
Diagnosing Psychological Disorders

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How are disorders diagnosed?

The _____ (APA, 2000) is the most widely used classification system currently used to make a diagnosis.

- (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual 4th ed.)



This is a manual that contains a listing of _____

DSM IV

Each disorder is defined by a set of _____ and text containing information about the disorder.

- prevalence
- familial patterns
- age
- culture
- differential diagnosis

The DSM is

_____.

No information about treatment or _____ is included.

History of the DSM

- ☐ The first edition of the DSM was published in 1952 and contained about 60 disorders.
- ☐ The DSM -I and II were very influenced by the _____
- ☐ There was no sharp distinction between "normal and abnormal"

DSM

- ☐ In 1980, the Psychodynamic view was abandoned and a _____
- ☐ Changes were made to the diagnostic system based on scientific data, not consensus of experts.
- ☐ Research that was comprised of field trials examined the *reliability* and *validity* of definitions and criteria, as well as creating new diagnoses (Wildiger et al., 1998).

DSM IV

- ☐ New disorders were introduced and other deleted in the *DSM IV*.
- ☐ Example-

- ☐ The *DSM-V* is in progress (2010)

This is a "multi-axial" system of classification.

- Axis 1- _____
- Disorders of childhood, mood disorders, substance-related disorders, schizophrenia, Anxiety disorders etc...
- Axis 2- _____
- Axis 3- Physical conditions and disorders
- Axis 4- _____
- Axis 5- (GAF)Global Assessment of Functioning

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Is this system perfect?

- One criticism of the DSM IV is the notion of _____, the presence of two or more disorders in an individual at the same time.
- _____
- _____
- _____

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Next class...

- Anxiety Disorders

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