Schizophrenia

Other psychotic disorders and causes

Delusional disorders are characterized by a persistent belief that is contrary to reality.

- There are several subtypes recognized by the DSM IV:
  - Grandiose
  - Persecutory
  - Somatic

Why do people stalk?

- An _infatuation_ is the irrational belief that the individual is loved by another person, usually of a higher status.

- Often seen in stalkers, especially those who stalk celebrities.

- This behavior is also displayed in a jealous delusion.
How common is this?

- Delusional disorder seems to be relatively rare, affecting 24-30 people per 100,000 in the general population.
- Researchers cannot be sure about the percentages because many of these individuals do not have contact with mental health services.
- The age of onset is ____________ yrs.

True or False?

- Women are more affected this disorder than men.
- This disorder is caused by environmental factors.
- This disorder can be influenced other factors?

How Prevalent is Schizophrenia?
Statistics on Schizophrenia

- Schizophrenia is a chronic and disabling brain disease that effects ______________________________ of the general population.

- There is NO cure and even with treatment people with schizophrenia are likely to experience life-long difficulties.

- People with schizophrenia have a shorter life expectancy

Can children be diagnosed with this disorder?

- This disorder effects men and women equally, but the disorder seems to appear at different times:

- Is my brain to blame??

- Brain damage during early developmental periods may lead to schizophrenia later in life.

- This damage lays dormant until later in development, when signs of schizophrenia first appear.

- Research shows that these people with early signs of abnormality tend to do better because the brain has more
Does it ever go away, for good?

- Unfortunately, even after people improve after an episode of schizophrenia later experience the symptoms again.
- Most people with schizophrenia fluctuate between severe and moderate levels of impairment throughout their lives.

Does your culture affect your prognosis?

- In Columbia, Nigeria and India, more people improve significantly or recover than in other countries. Due to cultural variations or prevalent biological influences.
- In the ____________________________, which suggests that people from devalued ethnic groups may be victims of bias and stereotyping.
- Therefore, the differing rates of schizophrenia may be the result of ____________________________ rather than a real cultural distinction.

It’s all in the family...

- Genes are responsible for making some individuals vulnerable to the disorder.
- Family studies which began by Kallmann (1938) discovered a ____________________________
  - ____________________________
Family studies

- What research has found all forms of schizophrenia within families (catatonic, paranoid, etc...).

- This suggests that people do not inherit a

  but rather a general predisposition for schizophrenia that manifests in a particular form of schizophrenia.

How many genes?

- The more genes you share, the more likely you will develop schizophrenia.

  - You have the greatest chance ____________________________

  - If you are the offspring of two parents with schizophrenia you have a _____% chance of developing the disorder

The Risk of Developing Schizophrenia
Other causes
- Another (controversial) theory suggests that there is some relationship between high levels of the neurotransmitter dopamine.
- The success of antipsychotic medications, which are Dopamine antagonists, support this theory.
- When drugs are administered that are known to increase dopamine there is an increase in schizophrenic behavior and vice versa.

But wait, there’s more...
- However, there is evidence that contradicts the dopamine theory. A significant number of people with schizophrenia are not helped by dopamine antagonists.
- In fact, many people are helped by the drug Clozapine, which ironically is considered to be a weak dopamine antagonist.

Next Class...
- We will discuss treatments for schizophrenia