

Psychotic Disorder and Schizophrenia

A person with psychosis is out of touch with reality. Delusion, hallucination and disorganized speech are usually quite prevalent and a person with psychosis usually has a dramatic change from his/her normal behaviour.

Brief Psychotic Disorder

Duration of psychotic episode that lasts for a month or less and the person is able to recover completely after that.

Signs & Symptoms:- (Several of the following)

- Delusion
- Hallucination
- Disorganized speech
- Disorganized / Catatonic behaviour

Schizophreniform

Duration of psychotic symptoms is from 1 to 6 months. While some recover completely with no residual effects, others are eventually found to have schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder.

Signs & Symptoms:- (Several of the following)

- Delusion
- Hallucination
- Incoherent / Disorganized speech
- Severely disorganized / catatonic behaviour
- Negative symptoms, such as flat affect, reduced speech, or lack of volition

Schizoaffective

A cross between mood disorder and schizophrenia.

Signs & Symptoms:- (Several of the following)

- Delusion
- Hallucination
- Derailment, Incoherence / Disorganized speech
- Negative symptoms, such as flat affect, reduced speech, or lack of volition
- A major depressive episode or depressed mood, manic episode, or mixed episode

=> Presence of delusion / hallucination but no prominent mood symptoms for at least 2 weeks.

=> For a substantial part of the active and residual portions of the illness, the mood episode symptom is present.

=> Symptoms of schizophrenia for at least a month.

Schizophrenia

At least 6 and more continuous months of symptoms. A person who suffers from schizophrenia would usually start off with a withdrawn or peculiar personality as illness

sets in. The person's behaviour starts to change and the illness could cause important problem at work and social functioning and self care.

Signs & Symptoms:- (Several of the following)

- Delusion
- Hallucination
- Incoherent, Derailed, Disorganized speech
- Severely disorganized / catatonic behaviour
- Negative symptoms, such as flat affect, reduced speech, or lack of volition
- Catatonic type will include stupor / motor immobility, hyperactivity, mutism / marked negativism, peculiar behaviour, increasing suspiciousness

=> Usually the individual will suffer from cognitive dysfunctioning, dysphoria, and sleep disturbance. And due to out of touch with reality, the person usually has no insight and some may have suicide tendency. More likely to strike on young adults in their 20s.

Delusional Disorder

A persistent delusion (for at least one month) that appears believable. The individuals usually appear quite normal if their delusional themes are not mentioned.

Reference:-

Morrison, J. (2001). DSM-IV Made Easy: The Clinician's Guide to Diagnosis. New York: The Guilford Press

For more detailed description and criteria of each mental illness, pls refer to the book mentioned above or <http://www.psychologynet.com>