

What is acute stress disorder?

Acute stress disorders are psychological disturbances lasting up to 1 month following stresses, such as natural disasters or military combat.

What is adjustment disorder?

Adjustment disorders are emotional disturbances caused by stressors within the range of common experience.

What is agnosia?

Agnosia is a disturbance in the ability to perceive the meaning of stimuli, such as words, objects, or pictures.

What is agoraphobia?

Agoraphobia is the fear that something extremely embarrassing will happen to them if they leave the house or enter unfamiliar situations.

What is antisocial personality?

A person with an antisocial personality seems to lack a conscience; is emotionally shallow, impulsive, and selfish; and tends to manipulate others.

What is anxiety disorder?

An anxiety disorder is a disorder characterized by disruptive feelings of fear, apprehension, or anxiety or by distortions in behavior that are anxiety related.

What is the anxiety reduction hypothesis?

The anxiety reduction hypothesis is an explanation of the self-defeating nature of many avoidance responses that emphasizes the immediate reinforcing effects of relief from anxiety.

What is biochemical abnormality?

A biochemical abnormality is a disturbance of the body's chemical systems, especially in brain chemicals or neurotransmitters.

What is bipolar disorders?

Bipolar disorders are motional disorders involving both depression and extremely elevated or manic moods and behavior.

What is bipolar I disorder?

Bipolar I disorder is a mood disorder in which a person has episodes of mania and also periods of deep depression.

What is bipolar II disorder?

Bipolar II disorder is a mood disorder in which a person is mostly depressed (sad, despondent, guilt ridden) but has also had one or more mildly manic episodes.

What is cataplexy?

Cataplexy is a sudden temporary paralysis of the muscles.

What is a catatonic episode?

A catatonic episode is a period of extreme stupor, immobility, and unresponsiveness.

What is catatonic schizophrenia?

Catatonic schizophrenia is marked by stupor, rigidity, unresponsiveness, posturing, mutism, and sometimes, agitated, purposeless behavior.

What is a compulsion?

A compulsion is an act an individual feels driven to repeat, often against his or her will.

What is conversion disorder?

Conversion disorder is a group of symptoms that appears to be physical but that actually results from anxiety, stress, or emotional conflict.

What is cyclothymic disorder?

Cyclothymic disorder is the moderate manic and depressive behavior that persists for 2 years or more.

What is a delusion?

A delusion is a false belief held against all contrary evidence.

What is delusional disorder?

A delusional disorder is a psychosis marked by severe delusions of grandeur, jealousy, persecution, or similar preoccupations.

What are the depressive disorders?

Depressive disorders are emotional disorders primarily involving sadness, despondency, and depression.

What is deviant communication?

Deviant communication are a set of patterns of communication that cause guilt, anxiety, confusion, anger, conflict, and emotional turmoil.

What is a disorganized schizophrenia?

Disorganized schizophrenia is marked by incoherence, disorganized behavior, bizarre thinking, and flat or grossly inappropriate emotions.

What is dissociative amnesia?

Dissociative amnesia is associated with a loss of memory (partial or complete) for past events and, especially, loss of memory for one's personal identity.

What is dissociative disorder?

Dissociative disorders consist of temporary amnesias, multiple personality, or depersonalization.

What is dissociative fugue?

Dissociative fugue is a fleeing to escape extreme emotional conflict, anxiety, or threat.

What is dissociative identity disorder?

Dissociative identity disorder is the presence of two or more distinct personalities or personal identities.

What is dysthymic disorder?

Dysthymic disorder is a moderate level of depression that has persisted for 2 years or more but has not included periods of severe depression.

What is endogenous depression?

Endogenous depression appears to be produced from within (perhaps by chemical imbalances in the brain) rather than as a reaction to life events.

What is ergotism?

Ergotism is a pattern of psychotic-like symptoms that accompanies poisoning by ergot fungus.

What is free-floating anxiety?

Free-floating anxiety is a form of anxiety that is very general and pervasive.

What is generalized anxiety disorder?

Generalized anxiety disorder is where there is a chronic state of tension and worries about work, relationships, ability, or impending disaster.

What is a hallucination?

A hallucination is an imaginary sensation—such as seeing, hearing, or smelling something that does not exist in the external world.

What is hypochondriasis?

Hypochondriasis is a preoccupation with minor bodily problems and the presence of illnesses that appear to be imaginary.

What is insanity?

Legally, Insanity is a mental disability shown by an inability to manage one's affairs or to be aware of the consequences of one's actions.

What is major depressive disorder?

Major depressive disorder is a mood disorder in which the person has suffered one or more intense episodes of depression.

What are the major mood disorders?

Major mood disorders are the group of disorders marked by lasting extremes of mood or emotion and often accompanied by psychotic symptoms.

What is maladaptive behavior?

Maladaptive behaviors are those that make it more difficult for a person to adapt to his or her environment and meet the demands of day-to-day life.

What does it mean to be manic?

Manic means extremely excited, hyperactive, or irritable.

What is mental disorder?

A mental disorder is a significant impairment in psychological functioning.

What is minimal brain dysfunction (MBD)?

Minimal brain dysfunction is a hypothesized explanation for hyperactivity, involving a lag in brain development or damage to the brain.

What is a mood disorder?

Mood disorders are the major disturbances in mood or emotion, such as depression or mania.

What is multiple personality?

Multiple personality is a form of dissociative disorder in which a person develops two or more distinct personalities.

What is a neurosis?

The word neurosis is an outdated term once used to refer to anxiety disorders, somatoform disorders, dissociative disorders, and some forms of depression.

What is an obsession?

An obsession is a recurring irrational or disturbing thoughts or mental images a person cannot prevent.

What is obsessive-compulsive disorder?

Obsessive-compulsive disorder is an extreme, unavoidable preoccupation with certain thoughts and compulsive performance of certain behaviors.

What is organic mental disorder?

Organic mental disorder is a mental or emotional problem caused by malfunction of the brain.

What is organic psychosis?

Organic psychosis is a psychosis caused by a known brain injury or disease.

What is pain disorder?

Pain disorder has no identifiable physical cause and appears to be of psychological origin.

What is panic disorder (with agoraphobia)?

Panic disorder involving agoraphobia is where a person in a chronic state of anxiety fears that these panic attacks will occur in public places.

What is panic disorder (without agoraphobia)?

Panic disorder without agoraphobia is a chronic state of anxiety and also has brief moments of sudden, intense, unexpected panic.

What is paranoid psychosis?

Paranoid psychosis is a delusional disorder centered especially on delusions of persecution.

What is paranoid schizophrenia?

Paranoid schizophrenia is marked by a preoccupation with delusions or by frequent auditory hallucinations, especially grandeur or persecution.

What is personality disorder?

Personality disorders are deeply ingrained, unhealthy, maladaptive personality patterns.

What is a phobia?

A phobia is an intense and unrealistic fear of some object or situation.

What is phobic disorder?

Phobic disorder is a type of anxiety disorder in which irrational fears (phobias) are focused on specific objects, activities, or situations.

What is phototherapy?

Phototherapy is a treatment for seasonal affective disorder that involves exposure to bright, full-spectrum light.

What is postpartum depression?

Postpartum depression is a mild to moderately severe depression that begins within 3 months following childbirth.

What is posttraumatic stress disorder?

Posttraumatic stress disorder is a disturbance lasting more than 1 month following stresses, such as natural disasters or military combat.

What is psychological trauma?

Psychological trauma is any psychological injury or shock, such as that caused by violence, abuse, neglect, separation, and so forth.

What is a psychopath?

A psychopath is an individual who appears to make no distinctions between right and wrong and who feels no guilt about destructive or antisocial behavior.

What is psychopathology?

Psychopathology is the scientific study of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders; also refers to abnormal or maladaptive behavior.

What is psychosis?

Psychosis is any severe psychological disorder characterized by a retreat from reality, hallucinations and delusions, disturbed emotion, or social withdrawal.

What is psychotic disorder?

Psychotic disorder is a severe psychological disorder characterized by a retreat from reality, by hallucinations and delusions, and by social withdrawal.

What is regression?

Regression is any return to an earlier, more infantile behavior pattern.

What is schizophrenia?

Schizophrenia is a psychosis characterized by delusions, hallucinations, apathy, and a "split" between thought and emotion.

What is schizotypal personality?

Schizotypal personality is a non-psychotic personality disorder involving withdrawal, social isolation, and odd behavior, but no break with reality.

What is seasonal affective disorder (SAD)?

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is depression that occurs during fall and winter; presumably related to decreased exposure to sunlight.

What are sexual and gender identity disorders?

Sexual and gender identity disorders are any of a wide range of difficulties with sexual identity, deviant sexual behavior, or sexual adjustment.

What is social nonconformity?

Social nonconformity is a failure to conform to societal norms or the usual minimum standards for social conduct.

What is a social phobia?

A social phobia is an intense, irrational fear of being observed, evaluated, embarrassed, or humiliated by others in social situations.

What is a sociopath?

A sociopath is another name for the psychopath or antisocial personality.

What is somatization disorder?

Somatization disorder is where a person has numerous physical complaints and consults many doctors, but no organic cause for their distress is identified.

What are the somatoform disorders?

Somatoform disorder is the presence of physical symptoms that mimic disease or injury for which there is no identifiable physical cause.

What is somatoform pain?

Somatoform pain has no identifiable physical cause and appears to be of psychological origin.

What is specific phobia?

A specific phobia is an intense, irrational fear of specific objects, activities, or situations.

What is statistical abnormality?

Statistical abnormality is defined on the basis of an extreme score on some measure or dimension, such as IQ or anxiety.

What is a stereotyped response?

A stereotyped response is a rigid, repetitive, and non-productive response made mechanically and without regard for its appropriateness.

What is a substance-related disorder?

A substance-related disorder is an abuse of or dependence on a mood- or behavior-altering drug.

What is undifferentiated schizophrenia?

Undifferentiated schizophrenia lacks the specific features of catatonic, disorganized, or paranoid types.

What is a unipolar disorder?

Unipolar disorder is a mood disorder in which a person experiences extended periods of deep depression but has no history of ever having been manic.