

DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS

DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS

Dissociative Disorders occur when conscious awareness becomes separated (dissociated) from previous memories, thoughts, and feelings

Two dissociative disorders that require treatment are ***dissociative personality disorder*** and ***schizophrenia***.

DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS

Dissociative Identity Disorder

- rare dissociative disorder in which a person exhibits two or more distinct and alternating personalities
- formerly called multiple personality disorder

- An individual suffering from DID has more than one distinct identity or personality state that surfaces in the individual on a recurring basis. This disorder is also marked by differences in memory that vary with the individual's 'alters', or other personalities.

- ① Dissociative disorders are thought to stem from trauma experienced by the individual with this disorder. The dissociative aspect is thought to be a coping mechanism
- ① the person literally dissociates him/herself from a situation or experience too traumatic to integrate with his/her conscious self.

SCHIZOPHRENIC DISORDERS

Schizophrenia is marked by **distortion of reality**. It is characterized by a group of symptoms including hallucinations, delusions, disturbances of thinking, emotion and behaviour, and a deterioration of social functioning.

(literal translation “split mind”)

SCHIZOPHRENIC DISORDERS

⊙ *Delusions*

- **false beliefs**, often of persecution or grandeur, that may accompany psychotic disorders

⊙ *Hallucinations*

- sensory experiences without sensory stimulation

Schizophrenia is NOT a “split personality.”

SCHIZOPHRENIC DISORDERS

- No definition can adequately describe all people with this illness. It is an extremely complex mental illness.
- It is a **neurobiological** illness in the same medical cluster as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Temporal Lobe Epilepsy, Huntington's, etc.
- It can affect normal, intelligent people in all walks of life. **It is a common illness**. Men and women are affected with equal frequency.
- **There is a genetic component** to schizophrenia. You have a 1% risk of being affected by schizophrenia; 10% if a parent or sibling is affected and 40% if both parents or an identical twin is affected.
- **Drug therapy is helping people with schizophrenia** lead productive lives. Early intervention has shown great promise for an improved quality of life during an acute phase of the disease.
- There are several **forms of schizophrenia** – catatonic/apathetic, delusional/paranoid, disorganized/hebephrenic.

- schizophrenia is an illness that can be frightening, isolating, exhausting — in part because it is so terribly misunderstood by the rest of us.
- People suffering from schizophrenia feel the sting of discrimination in almost everything they do. They become isolated — cut off from society. Some end their lives by suicide.

- ⦿ schizophrenia is a disease that makes it difficult for the person with the illness to decide what is real and what is not real, which obviously affects every aspect of the person's life.

- Most frequently the illness occurs in the 16 – 30 year old age group.
- Very often the individual has a perfectly normal childhood until the onset of the illness.
- Men and Women are affected with equal frequency.
- Generally men between the ages of 16 – 20 will experience schizophrenia for the first time, with a peak age of 19 years.
- Generally women between the ages of 25 – 30 will experience schizophrenia for the first time, with a peak age of 27 years.

- **Four in ten sufferers will attempt suicide** and one in ten will complete suicide
- Some people have episodes of the illness lasting weeks or months with full remission of their symptoms between each episode.
- At one end of the spectrum the person has a single episode followed by complete recovery. At the other end, there is the illness that never abates.
- Group 1 - One episode only — no impairment - 22%
- Group 2 - Several episodes with no or minimal impairment - 35%
- Group 3 - Impairment after the first episode with subsequent exacerbation and no return to normal - 8%
- Group 4 - Impairment increasing with each of several episodes and not return to normal - 35%

SCHIZOPHRENIC DISORDERS

TABLE 16.2

SUBTYPES OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

<i>Paranoid:</i>	Preoccupation with delusions or hallucinations, often with themes of persecution or grandiosity
<i>Disorganized:</i>	Disorganized speech or behavior, or flat or inappropriate emotion
<i>Catatonic:</i>	Immobility (or excessive, purposeless movement), extreme negativism, and/or parrotlike repeating of another's speech or movements
<i>Undifferentiated:</i>	Many and varied symptoms
<i>Residual:</i>	Withdrawal, after hallucinations and delusions have disappeared

What causes Schizophrenia?

- Scientists are almost certain that schizophrenia has more than one cause, although this is not yet precisely understood.
- Genetic factors appear to be important in the development of schizophrenia
- Researchers believe that a predisposition to develop schizophrenia is inherited, but an environmental “trigger” must also be present to bring the illness to the surface.
- These triggers are stress factors experienced at any point of the person’s life.

What causes Schizophrenia?

- Another strong theory is that a viral infection is responsible for schizophrenia. This viral infection would take place during the second trimester of pregnancy. A virus, somewhat like the flu, invades the child through the mother. The infection would affect brain development. As a result, during adolescence schizophrenia would be triggered.
- Some researchers feel that schizophrenia may be the result of complications during the mother's pregnancy or labour.
- substance use and abuse can trigger Schizophrenia.

What causes Schizophrenia?

- ① NO GOOD EVIDENCE supports the theory that family environment CAUSES schizophrenia
- ① very strong evidence supports biological factors as the primary cause.

Myths about Schizophrenia

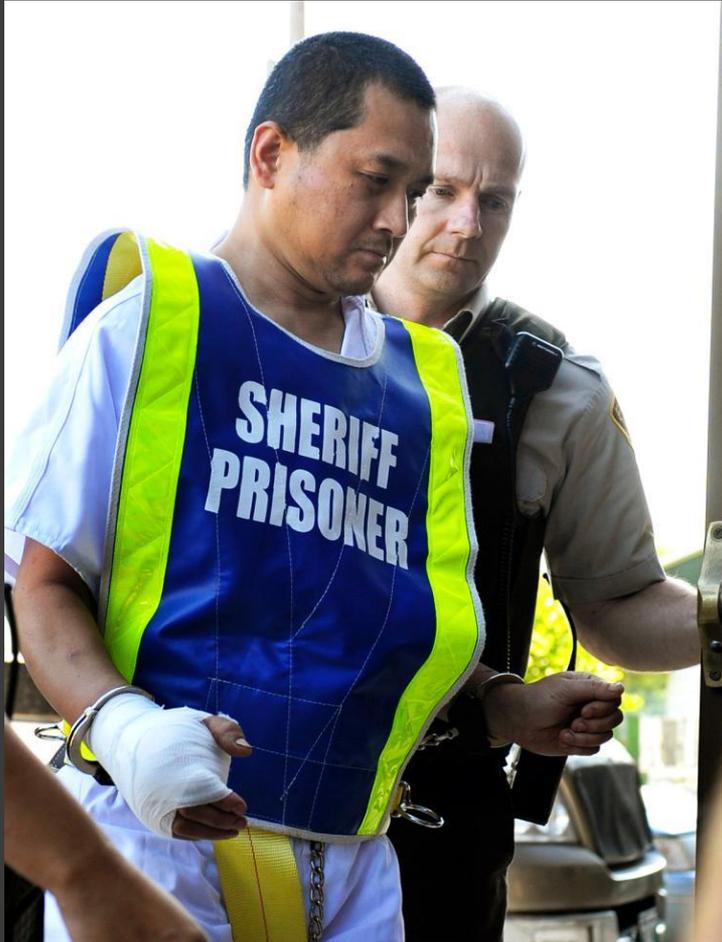
- ⦿ Schizophrenia is a split personality or multiple personality disorder.
- ⦿ People with schizophrenia are not able to make decisions about their own treatment.
- ⦿ People with schizophrenia cannot work.
- ⦿ Men and women with schizophrenia are likely to be violent.

TREATMENT

- ⦿ Since dissociative disorders seem to be triggered as a response to trauma or abuse, treatment for individuals with such a disorder may stress **psychotherapy**, although a combination of psychopharmacological and psychosocial treatments is often used.
- ⦿ Many of the symptoms of dissociative disorders occur with other disorders, such as anxiety and depression, and can be controlled by the same drugs used to treat those disorders.
- ⦿ A person in treatment for a dissociative disorder might benefit from **antidepressants or antianxiety medication**.

- With adequate supports (family, medical, social) many people can learn how to deal with the illness and lead productive comfortable lives with hope.

The Dark & Dangerous Side



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Tim_McLean

But even those most affected, can eventually live normal lives

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/board-oks-plan-for-man-who-beheaded-bus-passenger-to-eventually-live-on-his-own>

It's important to remember that these diseases can control a person's behavior, and make them act in ways that we would all consider brutal and wrong.

But when treated, the symptoms, and the danger, can disappear.