

The Delicate Art of Uncovering Psychotic Process

Speaker: Shawn Christopher Shea, MD

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About the Speaker

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Commercial Associations

- Publishing Houses: Elsevier
- Pharmaceutical Companies

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Goals for Today's Presentation

- 1) Examine interviewing techniques for more effectively spotting early and/or subtle psychotic process.
- 2) Examine interviewing techniques that can help us to more effectively anticipate that a given patient may be reasonably viewed as being at a higher risk of psychotic induced violence towards self or others.

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"Every physician must be rich in knowledge, and not only of that which is written in books; his patients should be his book, they will never mislead him . . . "

Paracelsus
Renaissance Alchemist and Physician

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Video
Demonstration

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Definition of
Psychosis

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Types of Symptoms

- 1) Primary Symptoms
- 2) Secondary Symptoms
- 3) Tertiary Symptoms

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Two Lenses for Studying Psychosis

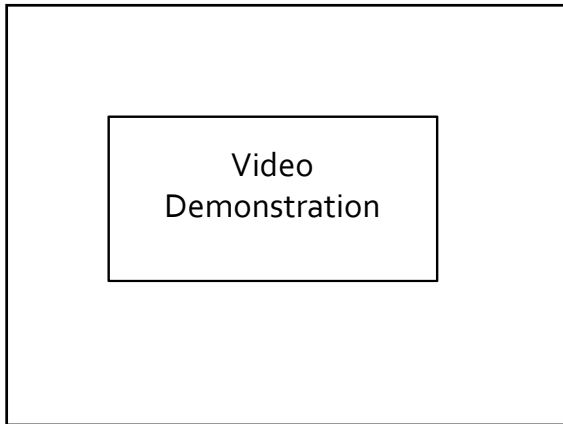
- 1) Phenomenology
- 2) "Distance" from the psychosis

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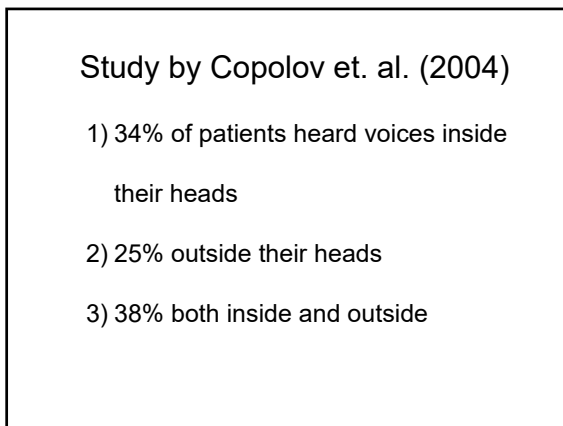
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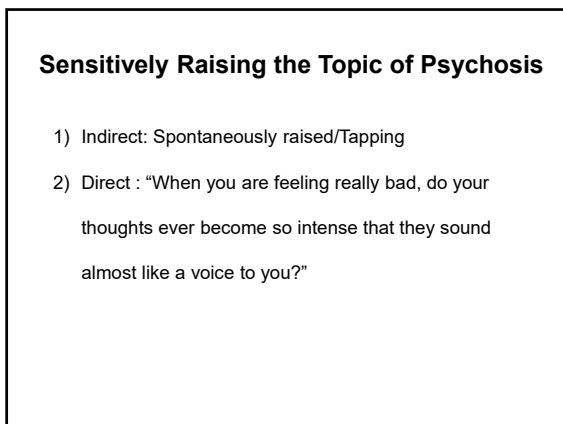
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Uncovering Dangerous Psychotic Process

- 1) Command hallucinations
- 2) Alien control
- 3) Hyper-religious ideation
 - a) Godhead proposes a deal
 - b) Lookout for the Bible verse Matthew 5:29
"if thine eye offend thee pluck it out, if thy hand offend thee cut it off."

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Four Vectors for Effectively Exploring Command Hallucinations

- 1) Content of the command hallucination
- 2) Intensity of the command hallucination
- 3) Patient's degree of resisting the command hallucination
- 4) The authority given by the patient to the "speaker"
of the command hallucination

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Uncovering Dangerous Psychotic Process

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Uncovering Paranoia

David Robinson

1. "Do you feel a need to protect yourself against your husband in the sense of avoiding him or keeping an eye on him?"
2. "Have you felt a need to take action against your husband or actually tried to harm him?"

Phil Resnick

Confrontation with a Paranoid Persecutor

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Video Demonstration

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The 4 A's of Eugen Bleuler

- 1) Ambivalence
- 2) Autism
- 3) Affect (abnormal)
- 4) Associations (loosening)

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Schneiderian Symptoms of Schizophrenia

- 1) Somatic passivity
- 2) Thought withdrawal
- 3) Thought insertion
- 4) Made feelings
- 5) Made impulses
- 6) Made volitional acts
- 7) Delusional perception

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- 8) Audible thoughts
- 9) Voices arguing
- 10) Voices commenting on patient's behaviors or thoughts
- 11) Thought broadcasting

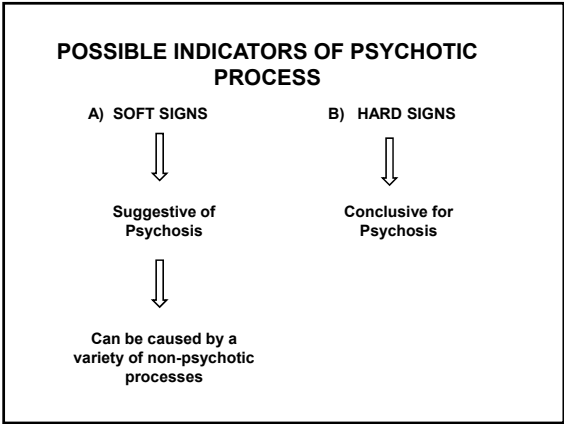
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Life Cycle of a Delusion

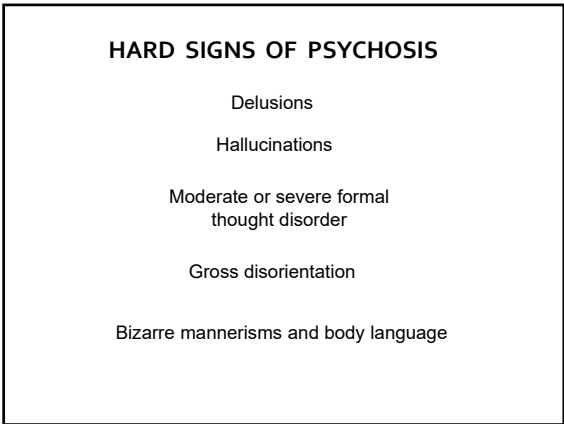
Delusional Mood \Rightarrow **Delusional Perception** \Rightarrow **Concrete Delusion**

(J. Lopez-Ibor)

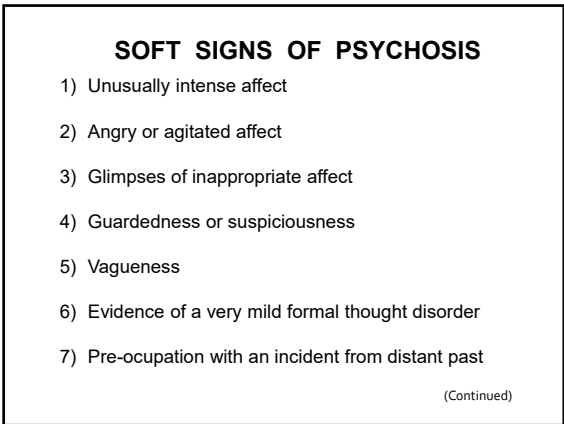
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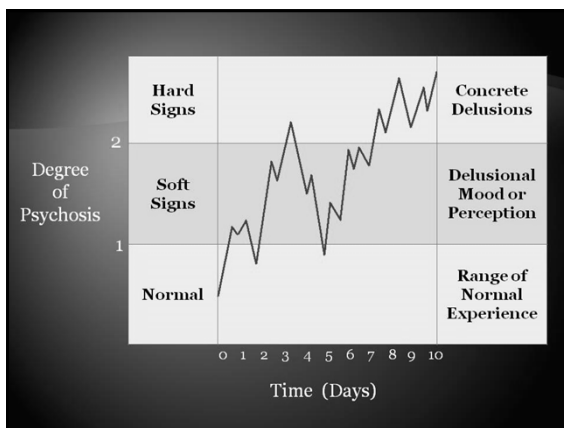


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SOFT SIGNS OF PSYCHOSIS

- 8) Expectation of familiarity from interviewer
- 9) Inappropriate eye contact
- 10) Long latency before responding or thought blocking

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Differential Diagnosis of Psychosis

- 1) Schizophrenia
- 2) Schizoaffective Disorder
- 3) Bipolar Disorder
- 4) Depression
- 5) Delusional Disorder
- 6) Drugs
- 7) Dementia

(Continued)

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8) Delirium

9) Other Organic Disorders (Seizures, hyperthyroidism, etc.)

10) Personality Disorders (Mini-psychotic episodes)

- a) Schizotypal P.D.
- b) Paranoid P.D.
- c) Borderline P.D.
- d) Histrionic P.D.
- e) Narcissistic P.D.

11) Miscellaneous Disorders

OCD, BDD, Anorexia Nervosa, PTSD, etc.

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