



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Psychotic Disorders

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/psychoticdisorders.html>

# Psychotic Disorders


**Also called:** Psychoses

Psychotic disorders are severe mental disorders that cause abnormal thinking and perceptions. People with psychoses lose touch with reality. Two of the main symptoms are delusions and hallucinations. Delusions are false beliefs, such as thinking that someone is plotting against you or that the TV is sending you secret messages. Hallucinations are false perceptions, such as hearing, seeing, or feeling something that is not there.


Schizophrenia [<https://medlineplus.gov/schizophrenia.html>] is one type of psychotic disorder. People with bipolar disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/bipolardisorder.html>] may also have psychotic symptoms. Other problems that can cause psychosis include alcohol and some drugs, brain tumors, brain infections, and stroke.

Treatment depends on the cause of the psychosis. It might involve drugs to control symptoms and talk therapy. Hospitalization is an option for serious cases where a person might be dangerous to himself or others.






## Start Here

- Psychosis [<https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness/Mental-Health-Conditions/Psychosis/>] (NAMI)
- Understanding Psychosis [<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/understanding-psychosis>]  
 (National Institute of Mental Health)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/espanol/como-comprender-que-es-la-psicosis>]

## Diagnosis and Tests

- Mental Health Screening [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/mental-health-screening/>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/evaluacion-de-salud-mental/>]


## Treatments and Therapies

- Brain Stimulation Therapies [<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/brain-stimulation-therapies/brain-stimulation-therapies>]  
  (National Institute of Mental Health)
- Mental Health Medications [<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/mental-health-medications>]  
 (National Institute of Mental Health)
- Psychotherapies [<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/psychotherapies>]  (National Institute of Mental Health)
- What Is Psychiatry? [<https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/what-is-psychiatry>]  (American Psychiatric Association)


## Living With

- Drug-Induced Movement Disorders [<https://aapp.org/ed/presentation/patients?view=link-8b534734-5463-11ec-9b5a-ed2de7b0c803&.pdf>] (American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists) - **PDF**
- Metabolic Side Effects of Psychiatric Medications [<https://aapp.org/ed/presentation/patients?view=link-8-1533575726&.pdf>] (American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists) - **PDF**


## Related Issues

- Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome [<https://rarediseases.info.nih.gov/diseases/7195/neuroleptic-malignant-syndrome>]  (Genetic and Rare Diseases Information Center)


## Specifics

- Postpartum Psychosis Help [<https://postpartum.net/get-help/postpartum-psychosis-help/>] (Postpartum Support International)
- Schizoaffective Disorder [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/schizoaffective-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20354504?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/schizoaffective-disorder/symptoms-causes/syc-20354504?p=1>]
- Schizophrenia: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/schizophrenia.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/schizophrenia.html>]
- Substance- and Medication-Induced Psychotic Disorders [<https://www.msdmanuals.com/home/mental-health-disorders/schizophrenia-and-related-disorders/substance-and-medication-induced-psychotic-disorders>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.msdmanuals.com/es/hogar/trastornos-de-la-salud-mental/esquizofrenia-y-trastornos-relacionados/trastornos-psic%C3%B3ticos-inducidos-por-sustancias-o-medicamentos>]

## Genetics

- Schizoaffective disorder: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/schizoaffective-disorder>]  (National Library of Medicine)

## Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Psychotic Disorders [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Psychotic+Disorders%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles

### References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Virtual-reality cognitive behavior therapy versus cognitive behavior therapy for paranoid ideation:... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40619608>]
- Article: Accelerating the development of a psychological intervention to restore treatment decision-making... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40614350>]
- Article: A 6-month supported online program for the treatment of persecutory delusions:... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40583552>]
- Psychotic Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Psychotic+Disorders%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

## Find an Expert

- American Psychiatric Association [<https://www.psychiatry.org/>]
- FindTreatment.gov [<https://findtreatment.gov/>] (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)  
Also in Spanish [<https://findtreatment.gov/es>]
- NAMI [<https://www.nami.org/>]
- National Institute of Mental Health [<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/>]   
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/espanol>]

# Children

- Hearing Voices and Seeing Things [[https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Facts\\_for\\_Families/FFF-Guide/Hearing-Voices-and-Seeing-Things-102.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Hearing-Voices-and-Seeing-Things-102.aspx)] (American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry)

## Patient Handouts

- Brief psychotic disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001529.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001529.htm>]
- Hallucinations [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003258.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003258.htm>]
- Major depression with psychotic features [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000933.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000933.htm>]
- Mental status testing [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003326.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003326.htm>]
- Psychosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001553.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001553.htm>]
- Schizoaffective disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000930.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000930.htm>]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- Brief psychotic disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001529.htm>]
- Electroconvulsive therapy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007474.htm>]
- Hallucinations [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003258.htm>]
- Major depression with psychotic features [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000933.htm>]
- Mental status testing [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003326.htm>]
- Psychosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001553.htm>]
- Schizoaffective disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000930.htm>]

## Related Health Topics

- Mental Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/mentaldisorders.html>]
- Schizophrenia [<https://medlineplus.gov/schizophrenia.html>]

The primary NIH organization for research on *Psychotic Disorders* is the National Institute of Mental Health  
[<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/>]

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies. MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our disclaimer [<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our quality guidelines [<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>] .

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)