Psychology

Assignment # 2

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BCSF15M025

**Substance Medication/ Induced Disorder**

**Definition:**

**Substance**/**medication**–**induced** psychotic **disorder** is characterized by hallucinations and/or delusions due to the direct effects of a **substance** or withdrawal from a **substance** in the absence of delirium.

**The drugs that can cause Substance and Medication-Induced Disorders are**:

* Cannabis
* Phencyclidine
* Other hallucinogens
* Inhalants
* Sedative, hypnotics or anxiolytic
* Amphetamine (or other stimulants)
* Cocaine
* Sedatives (Tranquillizers)
* Muscle relaxants
* Antihistamines
* Antidepressants
* Cardiovascular medications
* Antihypertensive medications
* Analgesics
* Anticonvulsants
* Chemotherapy agents
* Corticosteroids

Many drugs, illicit and prescribed, can cause profound mental health problems. When in the present of a pre-existing mental health condition, the symptoms of that illness can be intensified. Further to that, when some substances are consumed for long periods of time, they can manifest themselves as psychotic symptoms that may present as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. In general, psychosis is considered to be an illness that is accompanied by delusions and/or hallucinations. In most cases, such hallucinations are present outside of the patient’s scope of cognition and understanding. Hallucinations of this origin are typically visual, and may be enhanced when psychedelic drugs are used. Delusions are shifts in the patient’s reality, such that they believe that something far from reality is taking place

**Symptoms of Substance/Medication-Induced Psychotic Disorder**

Specific symptoms that may accompany substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder include the following:

* Abnormal psychomotor behavior
* Negative symptoms
* Impaired cognition
* Depression
* Mania
* Delusions
* Hallucinations
* Disorganized speech
* Diagnostic Criteria

## Differential Diagnosis

If actual substance intoxication or withdrawal is suspected, special diagnostic care is needed. In the case where individuals are actually intoxicated or withdrawing from alcohol or sedatives, they may experience altered perceptions that they are able to recognize as drug effects. If the individual recognizes these altered states, and does not act on the perception, than the diagnosis is not substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder. Instead, the proper diagnosis would be substance intoxication or substance withdrawal. Substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder is also not a proper diagnosis for people suffering from hallucinogenic flashbacks or alcohol withdrawal delirium.

**Prevalence:**

According to a 2013 report by the UN, around 6.7 million people in Pakistan are drug addicts. The prevalence of substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder in the general population is unknown. Nonetheless, according to DSM-5, somewhere between 7% to 25% of patients presenting with an initial episode of psychosis in various settings are reported to have substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder.

About 30% presented with substance induced psychosis, 29% tested positive for amphetamine, 43% for marijuana, 14% for cocaine, while another 14% tested negative for all substances. The investigators concluded from this investigation that substance-induced psychosis is more likely to be caused by marijuana, amphetamine and cocaine than alcohol.

## Treatment for Substance/Medication-Induced Psychotic Disorder

The first step in treating substance/medication-induced psychosis is to remove the substance, typically under careful medical observation in order to safely control withdrawal symptoms. In most cases, the psychosis, should be relieved by removing the offensive substance. If not, the diagnosis should be changed to primary psychosis.

**Therapies**:

For the treatment of delusions, cognitive-behavioral therapy may be useful. The basis for this treatment should be persistent, gentle conversations regarding their delusional beliefs. The discussion of all available evidence to the contrary of their delusions may help to resolve their condition.

Supportive therapy and drug counselling maybe helpful, after the psychosis has resolved, to prevent recurrence and enhance overall general health. Family therapy, mood stabilizers, anti-depressants are used for treatment.

Withdrawal symptoms:

If you have been using certain addictive drugs and you stop suddenly or abruptly or you cut down your use drastically, you can experience a variety of symptoms known as withdrawal. The intensity and length of these withdrawal symptoms can vary widely, depending on the type of drug and your biological make-up.

### **Withdrawal Symptoms Can Be Treated**

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, in most cases, the symptoms associated with drug withdrawal are easily treated with medications that reduce or eliminate the discomfort. But, treating withdrawal is not the same as treating the addiction itself.

**Step Exercises**

Any time psychotic symptoms appear when taking prescription medications, the individual or a loved one should contact a doctor immediately. It may be necessary to immediately stop taking the medication altogether. Psychosis can also become more likely when these medications are abused.

When it comes to nonprescription intoxicants, the likelihood of psychotic symptoms appearing, and what that looks like, varies from substance to substance. For example, taking a large amount of cocaine all at once can cause psychosis in minutes. Psychosis from cocaine or amphetamine use typically produces [persecutory delusions](http://psychcentral.com/encyclopedia/persecutory-delusion/).

Hallucinogens can, of course, cause visual, auditory, and tactile hallucinations, but this is not the same as psychosis. However, an adverse reaction or taking too much of this kind of drug can also cause delusions and paranoia.

 Long-term alcohol addiction can significantly change the chemistry and even the structure of the brain, possibly producing a set of symptoms referred to as delirium tremens when the addicted individual stops consumption.