

Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic* Disorders



**meaning to have broken from/lost sense of reality*

Defining Characteristics of this category:

- Disorders in this category are marked by
 - Psychosis: distorted reality due to disordered thought processes
- Key Features:
 1. Delusions (grandiose, persecutory, nihilistic, thought intrusions, etc.)
 2. Hallucinations
 3. Disorganized thinking/speech
 4. Disorganized movement/ catatonia
 5. Negative symptoms (like negative affect)

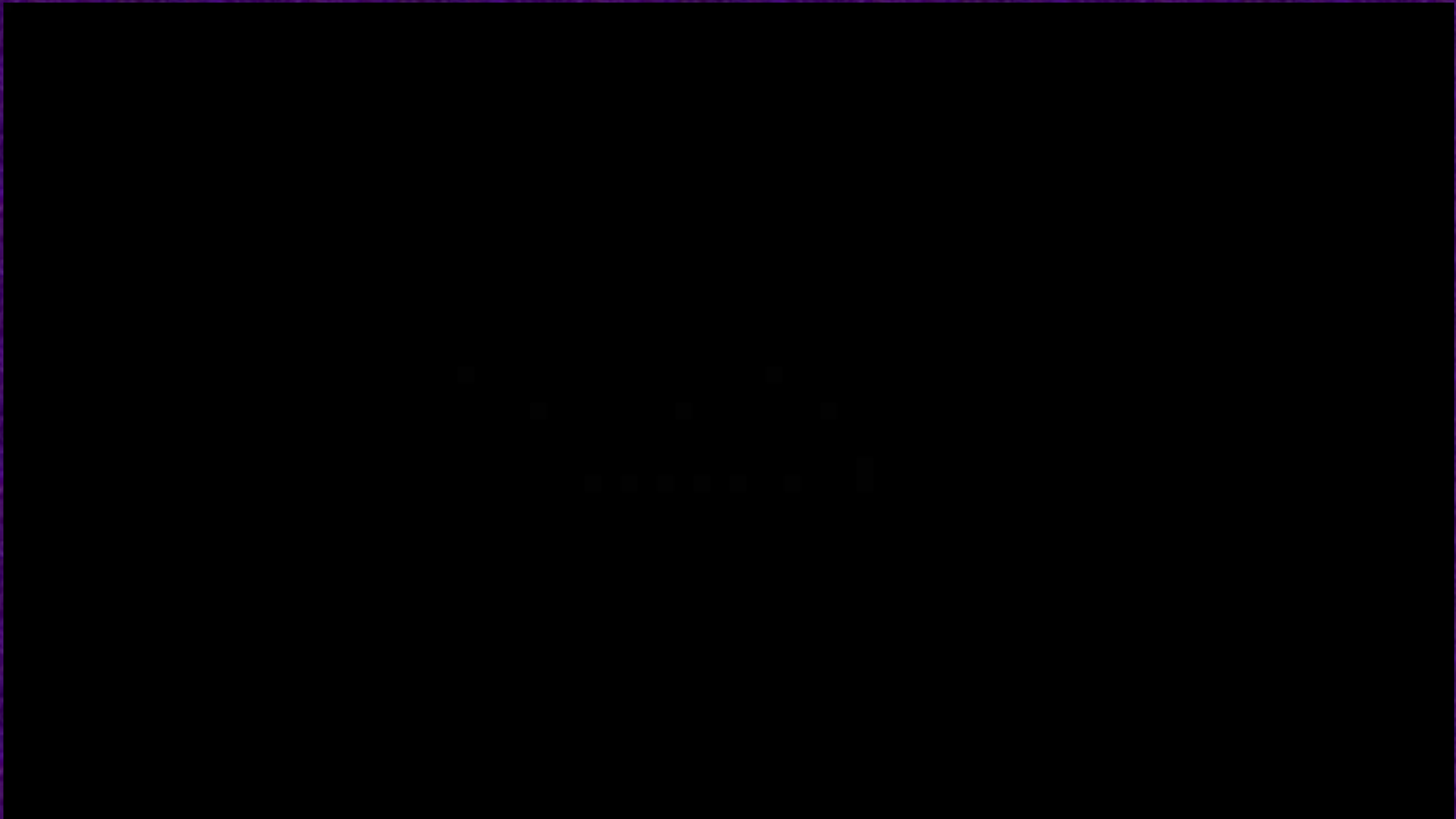
List of Disorders

- Schizophrenia
- Schizophreniform Disorder
- Brief Psychotic Disorder
- Delusional Disorder
- Substance/Medication-Induced Psychotic Disorder

Schizophrenia Symptoms

- 2 or more of the following present for a significant amount of time for a 1 month period:
 - Delusions
 - Hallucinations
 - Disorganized speech
 - Grossly disorganized or catatonic behavior
 - Negative affect (or other negative symptom)

4 patients with Schizophrenia



Schizophrenia Simulation



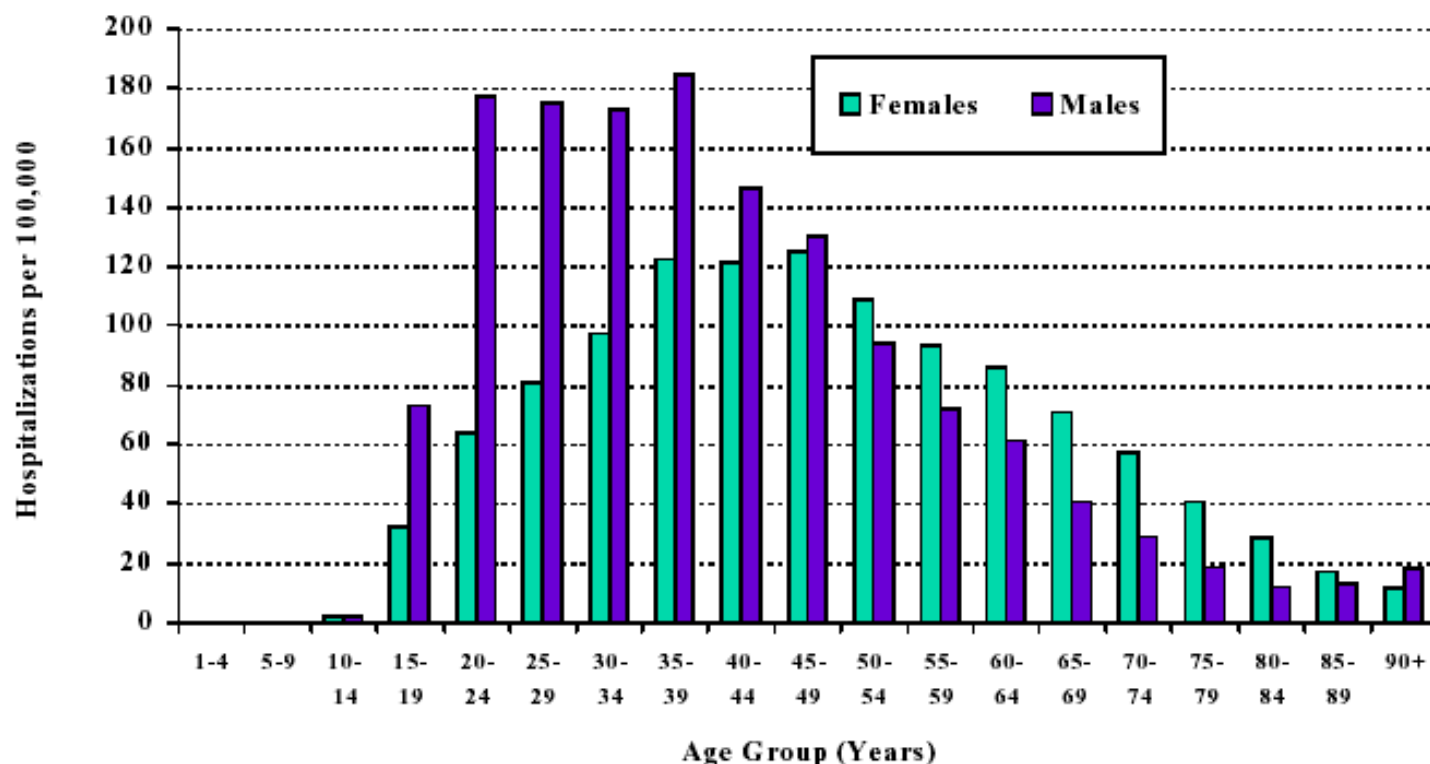
Causes of Schizophrenia

- Biological approaches seem to have the most evidence
 - Strong genetic link
 - Environment in womb – viruses?
 - Structural defects in brain (frontal lobe)
 - Prefrontal cortex produces lower levels of dopamine
 - Results in poor thought organization

Onset and Prevalence

- No cultural differences...which lends weight to the idea that it is fairly biological in nature
 - Adoption and twin studies also support this conclusion
- Prevalence:
 - 1% of population in a given year
- Onset:
 - *Males tend to see first major symptoms between 16-24.*
 - Women...usually late 20s- mid 30s

Figure 3-1 Hospitalizations for schizophrenia* in general hospitals per 100,000 by age group, Canada, 1999/2000



* Using most responsible diagnosis only

Source: Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada using data from Hospital Morbidity File, Canadian Institute for Health Information

Famous People with Schizophrenia

Star Wars Character

- <http://www.usmagazine.com/celebrity-news/news/star-wars-actor-jake-lloyd-diagnosed-with-schizophrenia-report-w202212>

"Beautiful Mind" trailer



Treatment

- Antipsychotic drugs
 - Blocks dopamine receptors
 - Antipsychotics are thought to work by altering the effect of certain chemicals in the brain
 - dopamine, serotonin, noradrenaline and acetylcholine.

Problems with Treatment

- Side effects/paranoia can lead to homelessness