

Chapter 18

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS

Section 1: What Are Psychological Disorders?

Section 2: Anxiety Disorders

Section 3: Dissociative Disorders

Section 4: Somatoform Disorders

Section 5: Mood Disorders

Section 6: Schizophrenia

Section 7: Personality Disorders

Question: What is the basis for classifying psychological disorders?

CLASSIFYING PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS

- Most psychologists believe that it is important to have a widely agreed upon classification of psychological disorders
- It is important to classify psychological disorders so that individuals can be correctly diagnosed and treated

Question: What are anxiety disorders?

ANXIETY DISORDERS

- Feeling anxious all or most of the time or having anxiety that is out of proportion to the situation provoking it
- Anxiety that interferes with effective living, the achievement of desired goals, life satisfaction, and emotional comfort

Question: What are the four dissociative disorders?

FOUR DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS

- Dissociative Amnesia – characterized by a sudden loss of memory usually following a particularly stressful or traumatic event
- Dissociative Fugue – characterized not only by forgetting personal information and past events but also by suddenly relocating from home or work and taking on a new identity

Question: What are the four dissociative disorders?

FOUR DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS *(continued)*

- Dissociative Identity Disorder – involves the existence of two or more personalities within a single individual
- Depersonalization Disorder – feeling of detachment from one's mental processes or body

Question: How do the two most common somatoform disorders differ?

DIFFERENCES IN SOMATOFORM DISORDERS

- *Conversion disorder* is characterized by a sudden and severe loss of physical functioning that has no medical explanation.
- *Hypochondriasis* is the unhealthy fear of having a serious disorder

Question: How do psychologists attempt to explain mood disorders?

PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLANATION OF MOOD DISORDERS

- Some people are prone to depression because they suffered a real or imagined loss of a loved object or person in childhood
- Some believe that *learned helplessness* makes people prone to depression
- Others believe that some people are prone to depression because of their habitual style of explaining life events

Question: What are the subtypes of schizophrenia?

SUBTYPES OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

- Paranoid Schizophrenia – delusions or frequent auditory hallucinations relating to a single theme
- Disorganized Schizophrenia – incoherent in their thoughts and speech and disorganized in their behavior
- Catatonic Schizophrenia – disturbance of movement

Question: How do personality disorders differ from other psychological disorders?

PERSONALITY DISORDERS

- A personality disorder is part of an individual's makeup influencing virtually all behavior and thought
- Other psychological disorders tend to be discrete episodes of illness than can be distinguished from the individual's usual behavior

Question: How are psychological disorders identified, what are their symptoms, and how are they classified?

