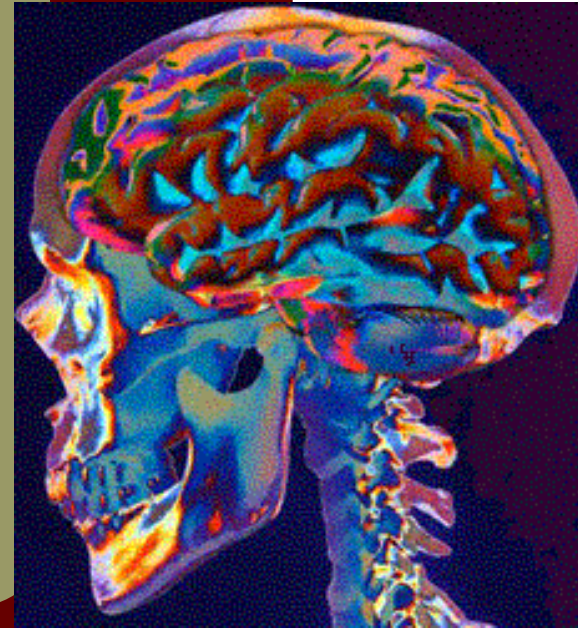
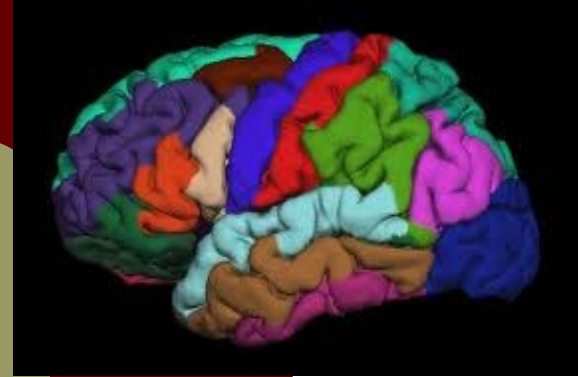


Feeling Crazy??

What's Going on in the Brain:

- Excess amounts of the neurotransmitter dopamine causes an overstimulation of the neurons. This means that too many messages are being sent at the same time
- Symptoms of psychosis, like Hallucinations and Delusions are thought to be related to this overstimulation
- When the brain is overstimulated for a prolonged period, it causes the neurons to shut down
- Symptoms of poor concentration and reduced motivation, may be related to this shut down
- The treatment of psychosis involves medications that work to restore the chemical balance in the brain
- They work by "mopping up" the excess dopamine
- Treatment also involves managing stress and restoring the balance in the person's environment
- Other studies have shown that an excess of the neurotransmitter glutamate may trigger psychosis/ psychotic symptoms



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- ⇒ Psychosis is relatively common, affecting 3-5% of the population at some point in life
 - ⇒ **Psychosis** is a disturbance in the perception of reality, evidenced by hallucinations, delusions, or thought disorganization
 - ⇒ **Hallucinations** are false sensory perceptions occurring in any of the 5 senses
 - ⇒ **Delusions** are false beliefs that are firmly held despite obvious evidence to the contrary

References:

Www.UpToDate.com; Wwww.proquest.com; DSM V



Medical Conditions that could lead to Psychosis

Infectious: UTIs, pneumonia, meningitis, HIV/AIDS

Withdrawal: alcohol, benzodiazepines

Acute vascular: shock, hypertensive encephalopathy

Nutritional Deficiencies: thiamine, B12, folate

Acute metabolic: liver or kidney failure, electrolytes, alkalosis, acidosis

Trauma: post-op, head injury, burns, heat stroke

CNS pathology: tumor, stroke, seizure, hemorrhage, abscesses

Hypoxia: anemia, PE, heart failure, CO₂ poisoning

Endocrine: glucose, thyroid, adrenal, parathyroid (hypercalcemia)

Toxins: alcohol, benzodiazepines, anticholinergic, opioids, anesthetics, anticonvulsants, dopaminergic agents, steroids, insulin, antibiotics (quinolones), NSAIDs

Heavy metals: lead, arsenic, mercury

Alzheimer's Disease

Schizophrenia- is a chronic disorder that can be characterized by periods of active psychosis along with disruptions in social and occupational functioning. Effects of schizophrenia can be sorted into positive and negative symptoms

Positive- (additive)

Delusions

Hallucinations

Agitated, Disorganized behavior and thoughts

Loose associations

Increased speech

Suspiciousness

Bizarre behavior

Negative- (deficit)

Flat affect

Poverty of speech and thought

Loss of motivation

Social Withdrawn

Psychomotor slowing

Poor eye contact

Poor attention

Loss of pleasure

Poor grooming

Sleep deprivation takes a toll on an estimated 50-70 million US adults. One of the most common and most troublesome side effects of the deprivation is psychosis. When associated with sleep deprivation, psychosis may only be temporary but it may lead to serious issues. This condition typically is also related to depression and anxiety issues as well. Combined with other disorders sleep deprivation can radically impair an individual's ability to perform everyday tasks and worsen the person's quality of life.

Bipolar Mania- a period of elevated or irritable mood, decreased need for sleep, increased activity and poor judgment that if left untreated can lead to psychotic symptoms in 80% of patients

Schizoaffective disorder- condition in which criteria for schizophrenia, major depressive episode, manic episode, or mixed episode are also met

Delusional Disorder- presence of non-bizarre delusions for at least 1 month

Brief psychotic disorder- symptoms are present for at least 1 day but <1 month; usually after a catastrophic event and quickly resolve with removal of stressor

Schizophreniform disorder- same symptoms as schizophrenia but lasting between 1-6 months

Delirium- Disturbance of consciousness (decreased awareness of environment) with reduced ability to focus, sustain, or shift attention