

UNIT 12: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY CASE STUDIES II

Possible Symptoms:

Paranoid Delusions
Word Salad
Mania
Social Isolation/Withdrawal

Grandiose Delusions
Hallucinations

Depression

Possible Diagnosis:

Paranoid Schizophrenia
Disorganized Schizophrenia
Catatonic Schizophrenia

Bipolar Disorder
Major Depression

Case 1:

The patient lies in bed hardly moving. He does not look at anyone passing by his bed. His facial expression is empty and unchanging. He is thin and pale and looks physically ill. He refused to eat and has to be fed by a stomach tube. He cannot control urination or defecation. Occasionally he mutters a few words like "Sin...Sinners...Hell" apparently preoccupied completely with his thoughts of sin and punishment. We are quite sure he does not know where he is - he may believe he is in hell.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 2:

A young man believed that he was destined to become Emperor of the United States. "I could do a lot for the world," he said, "The U.S. has presidents, will it ever have an emperor? I'll bet you think I'm nuts to ask about that. I must have the morning paper to keep track of world affairs. If the people of the United States want me to rule them, I'm willing to do so; but no one has been to see me and tell me. I'll be glad to lead them." Later he spoke of hearing public announcements that he was to be crowned emperor. "It's been heard all over the country... The world is in chaos. Thousands will be killed. I'm not a god or a devil, but I'm a supernatural being." All nations will be under his rule but Egypt. Along with these delusional convictions, the patient believed that attempts to kill him were repeatedly being made so that he lived, like Damocles, in constant danger.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 3:

Dear Sir:

This is not my shape or face Mary has given me her glass eye and she has my nose. Bob Hope, Crooked Mouth Peter Lin Hayes, has given me his lopsided shoulder and terrible mans figure. He sold his shape to Mr. Albright, I want my own things.

Frances, Pinky tongue. She has my noise.

Cathy Crosby has most of my things I want them. I have little Reds Kork leg from the Hotel he lives most of the time and a few other bad features I can't mention he gave me. I guess knowing him you must know what it is. Delores club finger and two other fingers she had smashed in a defense plant Ruth.

Peggy or Hildegard has my hands and has gave me her large lump in the back of the neck and her large head. Ida Jeanette has my eyes and hair and other things so make her give them back. I don't want these things anymore the Contest is over.

I want my own things back and also my daughter.

Doctor Cameron has Patricia and I want her back immediately I'm going to the police. I know all hers and my pictures with my attorney. Patricia took 3 screen tests I have proof for these things I took one also.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 4:

He dressed in flashy pajamas and loud bathrobes, and, was otherwise immodest and careless about his personal appearance. He neglected his meals and rest hours, and was highly irregular, impulsive and distractible in his adaptations to ward routine. Without apparent intent to be annoying or disturbing he sang, whistled, told pointless off color stories, visited indiscriminately and flirted crudely with the nurses and female patients.

Superficially he appeared to be in high spirits, and yet one day when he was being gently chided over some particularly irresponsible act he suddenly slumped in a chair, covered his face with his hands, began sobbing and cried, "for Pete's sake, Doc, let me be. Can't you see that I've just got to act happy?" This reversal of mood was transient and his seeming buoyancy returned in a few moments; nevertheless during treatment his defense euphoria disappeared again when he revealed his fear that his wife was unfaithful to him.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 5:

Doctor: How old are you?

Patient: Why I am centuries old, sir.

Doctor: How long have you been here?

Patient: I have been on this property on and off for a long time. I cannot say the exact time because we are absorbed by the air at night, and they bring back people. They kill up everything; they can make you lie; they can talk through your throat.

Doctor: Who is this?

Patient: Why, the air.

Doctor: What is the name of this place?

Patient: This place is called a star.

Doctor: Who is the doctor in charge of your ward?

Patient: A body, just like yours, sir. They can make you black and white. I say good morning, but he just come through there. At first, it was a colony, they said it was heaven. These buildings were not solid at the time, and I am positive this is the same place. They have others just like it. People die, and all microbes talk over there, and prestigious you know is sending you from here to another world.... I was sent by the government of the United States in Washington to some star, and they had a pretty nice country there. Now you have a body like a young man who says he is of the prestigious.

Doctor: Who was this prestigious?

Patient: Why you are, yourself. You can be a prestigious. They make you say bad things; they can read you; they bring back Negroes from the dead.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 6:

A brilliant student, Clarence suffered a severe breakdown during his third year of college and was admitted to a mental hospital. While he was in the hospital Clarence heard voices and often talked of a machine to control human thoughts. Once the therapist approached him on the hospital grounds and called his name but was unable to get his attention. Clarence was staring into space, the tip of his index finger pressed against his lips. The therapist found it difficult to move the finger but finally succeeded in raising Clarence's arm above his head. There it remained in the awkward position in which the therapist had placed it. The therapist pinched Clarence and stuck him with a pin, but Clarence did not move an eyelid.

For ten days he remained silent and motionless and had to be forcible fed. Then suddenly he emerged from this state, exclaiming, "I have been born again."

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 7:

A woman believed that her son-in-law planned to sexually assault and kill her. Her reaction to this idea was expressed in many letters sent to friends and relatives, mailed surreptitiously, and causing the daughter and son-in-law much embarrassment. She believed her daughter's husband to be a reincarnation of a lover from her youth. She brought out old pictures to verify the resemblance and then launched into longer stories about the man to whom she had been engaged as a girl.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 8:

Steve was admitted to the hospital from the city jail, where he had been serving a sentence for peddling without a license. The jail physician recommended psychiatric observation after the patient told him a story of being the Swedish ambassador to the United States who was traveling around the country in disguise to study conditions. In appearance, Steve was untidy and disheveled, a small man who appeared to be about forty five years of age. He stated his own age to be six thousand and twelve and said that he was the owner of the whole continent of Sweden under God. He claimed that the medicine he was selling from door to door was made from the inner most private essences of time without end, amen. For over a thousand years, according to the patient, evil men had been trying to get his secret of perpetual life and even now were operating on him. He said that he had discovered a super-radio with which he could tell where his enemies were and that at the proper time he would order the armies into action and give his whole fortune of several billion dollars to the support of genuine Swedish Christianity. He maintained that he was not bothered by being placed in jail or being taken to the hospital, because his superordered powers would enable him to walk through the thickest walls at any time he chose.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 9:

No, I never was crazy, a little nervous. Look at my teeth. I came here to have my teeth fixed. We're going to have a strawberry party now. Yesterday, I heard voices... They said, "I ran to the drugstore and I am going home tomorrow." I heard J.B. Scott's voice and it came up here in the air. We've got 39 banks on Market Street. We've got lots of property. Say, take me home and I'll give you three laundry bags. I'm 29 and a half, 29 and a half. Now I want you to get me ten apples and two dozen lemons. Now listen, if I get some pineapple will you preserve it?

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 10:

The following is a letter written to a radio station by a man not in a mental hospital. The letter is reprinted exactly as written.

Gentlemen:

I am writing you for some information. For over three years I have been tormented and tortured by parties using or directing something on me. I think it is something in the television or radio field. I am not a technical man so I can't figure it out. It is invisible, but I sure can feel it. They can send it mild, medium, and strong. When in building with metal lathing, I can hear a sharp clicking sound in the walls and feel it working on me. They keep it directed mainly at my chest and abdomen. It causes stiffening and paralyzing of the muscles and there is a stinging, burning pain. It feels just like a ball of fire working on my body. It seems to expand my chest and abdomen so much that I feel as though I were going to explode like a toy balloon. It affects my vision and causes blurring in my sight.

One day when I took an automobile trip and was on the road for five hours, there was no sign of the trouble. You see, I had gotten away from where they were operating, but when I returned home it started up again. One night when I went to bed they sprung a picture of a big audience of people before my eyes. I notified the F.B.I. at Washington D.C. but haven't heard from them so I thought you people could solve the mystery for me. If you can enlighten me as to what they are using and how to run down or combat it successfully, I will appreciate the same very much, I assure you. I am very anxious to end this torture and continuous misery.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis:_____

Case 11:

Barney Hauser was from a very strict, devoutly religious family and had been brought up with a strong sense of the horrible price a person paid for sin, whether actually committed or committed through fantasy.

During his senior year in high school, his parents decided to obtain a divorce. Shortly after they separated, Barney had a dream which recurred frequently in later weeks. In the dream, Barney was told that he was a re-creation of Jesus Christ, and the "Son of God would be thrown out of the house of God."

As the dream repeated again and again, he came to believe it was true, and he thought of a way to test the dream's truth. In the poorest section of his city was an old church called the "House of God". Since this was the phrase that turned up in his dreams, Barney visited the minister of his church to ask his advice. The minister quickly realized how disturbed Barney was and asked him to leave, but Barney refused and began to pound on the desk in his excitement. The noise brought some men from the store next door, and they held Barney while the minister called the police. Barney was taken from the church to the nearest Psychiatric hospital. However, the entire occurrence only confirmed his dream: the Son of God (Barney Hauser) was being thrown out of the House of God.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis:_____

Case 12:

During most of his life, the patient had been inclined to keep to himself. He had few friends, his feelings were hurt readily, and he seldom participated in any social activities. As a boy he had done nearly average work in school but had never taken part in extracurricular activities. After dropping out of school he secured a job. He seldom talked with the other workmen and preferred to eat his lunch alone.

When he was twenty-five years of age, he became even more withdrawn and began to behave strangely.

At times he would refuse to eat, especially some articles of food, for fear of being poisoned. He quit his job and stayed at home, often not leaving the house for several days at a time. At times he even locked himself in his room. He was taken to a mental hospital, where he remained withdrawn. At times his facial expression became rather unchanging. Sometimes he would not answer questions directed to him. He would sit alone for considerable periods of time without making any noticeable movements.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis:_____

Case 13:

John, a patient at the state mental hospital, appears to be happy and elated. He frequently makes humorous remarks, laughs at them himself, and is successful in making others laugh too. In expressing his thoughts he jumps from one topic to another without following any particular course. If, while he is talking about his family, the psychologist suddenly interjects a comment about the weather, John immediately switches his conversation to the weather or any other topic the psychologist introduces. Furthermore, he is hyperactive.

He is either drumming with his fingers, playing with a pencil, or engaging others with his rapid talk. His present illness will probably be followed by several years of "normal" behavior.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis:_____

Case 14:

Mr. S. would spend most of his time sitting on a chair by the side of his bed, moaning and wringing his hands. His facial expression was one of deepest dejection and his eyes were reddened from weeping. As a rule Mr. S. would not speak unless spoken to, but occasionally he would address another patient or a member of the ward staff. At such times he would usually blame himself in the harshest terms for having "ruined my family", saying that he did not deserve to live.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis:_____

Case 15:

Jack has been hearing for several months the same voice, which makes derogatory accusations about his being a sexually immoral pervert. This same voice often commands him to do such things as throw furniture out of the window. His speech is monotonous except when he is talking about his troubles, at which time it becomes quite animated and vehement. His sentence structure is often shattered and his statements are usually incoherent, since they consist of a sequence of apparently unconnected words. An example of his "word salad" is "The pipe tail on the bed, the TV said, a brown came out of the lawn, the flowers are board walk." He also coins new words such as "labicator" which he said was an important chemical that will be used to purify the world.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis:_____

Case 16:

L. Percy King was a patient in a state mental hospital who believed that he made the greatest discoveries in the history of the world. He felt he was the object of a group of pursuers who had been after him for thirty years. King heard these evil pursuers talk by way of what he called "radio voices". Among these pursuers were evidently some brothers and sisters who inherited from one of their parents some astounding, unheard of, utterly unbelievable occult powers. Believe it or not, some of them, besides being able to tell a person's thoughts, are also able to project their magnetic voices, commonly called "radio voices", a distance of a few miles without talking aloud and without apparent effort. Thus, in connection with their mind reading ability, they are able to carry on a conversation with a person over a mile away and out of sight, by ascertaining the person's unspoken thoughts, and then by means of their so-called "radio voices", answer these thoughts aloud audibly to the person.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis:_____

Case 17:

Midge become depressed and asked to return to the hospital where she had been a patient. She then become overactive and exuberant in spirits and visited her friends, to whom she outlined her plans for reestablishing different forms of lucrative businesses. She purchased many clothes, bought furniture, pawned her rings, and wrote checks without funds. For a period thereafter she was depressed. In a little less than a year, she again become overactive, played her radio until late in the night, smoked excessively, took out insurance on a car that she had not yet bought. Contrary to her usual habits, she swore frequently and loudly, created a disturbance in a club to which she did not belong, and instituted divorce proceedings. On the day prior to her second admission to the hospital she purchased 57 hats.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis:_____

Case 18:

The following concerns three patients suffering from the same disease.

Joseph was fifty-eight and had been hospitalized for almost two decades. Of medium height and build, bald and with half his front teeth missing, he somehow gave the impression of impishness. When asked his name he would

reply, "My name is Joseph Cassel". When further asked if he had any more to say he would respond, "Yes, I'm God."

Clyde introduced himself next. He was seventy and had been hospitalized for seventeen years. Clyde was over six feet tall and despite the fact that he was toothless, stated, whenever asked, that he was in excellent health - and he was. He spoke indistinctly, in a low, rumbling, resonant voice. He was very hard to understand.

Doctor: What is your name?

Clyde: My name is Clyde Benson. That's my name straight

Doctor: Do you have any other names?

Clyde: Well, I have other names, but that's my vital side. I made God five and Jesus six.

Doctor: Does that mean you're God?

Clyde: I made God, yes I made him seventy years old. Hell!! I'm passed seventy years old.

Leon was the last to introduce himself. Of the three he looked the most like Christ. He was thirty-eight and had been committed five years before. Leon denied his real name vigorously, referring to it as his "dupe" name, and refusing to cooperate or have anything to do with anyone who used it in addressing him.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 19

Mrs. Kames was a nurse, but began to get the idea that she was being spied upon by her neighbors, that men were hiding in her attic at night with a view of seducing her, "an honorable woman". She is a great inventor, having invented a powderless, triggerless, shell-less, reportless, barrel-less gun - in fact a peace gun.

She has sold it to the government, but spies are everywhere in the institution and the superintendent is in league with them. She has the idea that there may be some spies in the class, so she asked everyone to raise their right hand and say, "God Save America". Then she is satisfied and continues with her harangue, hinting that even greater inventions are coursing through her mind. She switches to religion, telling what a pure righteous woman she is. She was "monkied" with ten years ago and is to give birth to five monkeys. She says her term is a long one because hers is a Caesarian Case. When the doctor says, "All right Mrs Kames, you may go back now," she becomes quarrelsome, accusing him of not wanting these boys and girls to know that he is keeping her, a perfectly sane woman, in this place. She is edged out of the room but slips a piece of paper to a girl sitting near the door. It says, "This is a house of ill repute, you had better get out of it while you have the chance."

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 20:

Charles, a twenty-five year old bachelor, was committed to the psychiatric division of a V.A. hospital for a second time. Charles was the older of two boys who grew up in an Iowa suburb. His parents were emotionally supportive and attentive to his physical needs. Friends described him as being popular and outgoing as an adolescent. When Charles was twenty, he was drafted into the army and serve in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, he received a minor head wound and spent a brief amount of time recuperating in a hospital. Charles was sent back to active duty, but he had tremendous difficulty in coping with the realities of the war. He received a psychiatric discharge from the V.A. hospital near his home. He had complained of recurrent nightmares in which he was tortured by the Viet Cong. After gradual improvement, he was released and went home to live with his family.

He felt no desire to contact any of his old buddies. When they phoned or visited him, he made excuses not to see them. His parents encouraged him to get out of the house and take a job a local merchant offered him, but he refused.

At first, his family thought that Charles just needed time to readjust to civilian life; however, his condition steadily worsened. He ate irregularly and paid little attention to his appearance and personal hygiene.

He withdrew from the little social contact he had made and spent most of his time sitting idle in his room. He even lost interest in watching sporting events on TV, something that had always been a favorite pastime. By the time his parents decided to send him back to the hospital, Charles could not even dress himself.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 21:

Examiner: What are the colors of the American Flag?

Patient: Well, I think they are red. Let's see now, oh yes, they're quite red, red, red, red.

Examiner: How many months are there in a year?

Patient: Some years have many and some have more. There aren't many more, are there?

Examiner: Why do we wash clothes?

Patient: That's a communist conspiracy. The communist powers have perverted our minds with mindless sexism that subverts the sexless.

Examiner: Okay, but can you tell my why we wash clothes?

Patient: We don't wash clothes no more.

Examiner: Now, let us try these. How much is four dollars and five dollars?

Patient: Now I remember.... Let's see now, well I had this friend who borrowed, flowered and sorrowed till she could pay no more, and then she up and died, penniless as a pauper, get it?

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 22:

The following is excerpts from a letter received by a radio station from a patient at a local mental hospital.

Dear Sir:

There is an electric ray or wave of electricity that will penetrate any body of flesh that it is directed on the air to an individual body of flesh, either animal or human bodies. The doctors in control of the hospital have knowledge of this kind that the United States government does not have. This hospital holds some persons unconstitutionally and unlawfully against the Constitution of the United States for their horrible experimenting.

The doctors have the knowledge of telepathy and psychic phenomena because of their evil experimenting. The human brain that contact the unseen electrical brain waves, so that the nerves inside the body pick up these thoughts (telepathy) and carry them to the brain. The United States government does not understand this.

Everyone knows that a lightening discharge (electricity) will penetrate a body of flesh in its path when it strikes during an electric storm. Common sense will tell you that man made electricity will do the same thing. Also, the doctors in control of the hospital have knowledge of the electric ray named the death ray and use it for their evil experimenting. The death ray can be radio connected, and it must penetrate any body of flesh that it is directed or projected into the air. This electrical ray will pass through metal and materials of all kinds without bothering those things, but when it strikes a body of flesh it will penetrate that body and hold inside the body, and it will punish or it can be controlled so as not to punish. I want the United States government to have this knowledge so as to bring to justice the worst bunch of criminals in American History.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 23:

Examiner: How do you feel today?

Patient: Fine.

Examiner: When did you come here?

Patient: 1416, you remember doctor.

Examiner: Do you know why you are here?

Patient: Well, in 1951 I changed into two men. President Truman was judge at my trial. I was convicted and hung. My brother and I were given back our normal bodies 5 years ago. I am a policeman. I keep a dictaphone concealed on my person.

Examiner: Can you tell me the name of this place?

Patient: I have not been a drinker of 16 years. I am taking a mental rest after an assignment. You know a penwrap. I had contracts with Warner Brothers and Mike protested. I am made of flesh and blood.

Examiner: Are you married?

Patient: No. I am not attracted to women. I have a companionship arrangement with my brother. I am a loner.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____

Case 24:

Examiner: What's your name?

Patient: Who are you?

Examiner: I am a doctor. Who are you?

Patient: I can't tell you who I am.

Examiner: Why can't you tell me?

Patient: You wouldn't believe me.

Examiner: What are you doing here?

Patient: Well, I've been sent here to stop the Russians. I'm the only one in the world who knows how to deal with them. They got their spies all around here though to get me. But I'm a lot smarter than them.

Examiner: What are you going to do to stop the Russians?

Patient: I'm organizing.

Examiner: Who are you going to organize?

Patient: Everybody, I'm the only man in the world who can do that, but they're trying to get me. But I'm going to use my atomic bomb media to blow them up.

Examiner: You must be a very important person then.

Patient: Well, of course.

Examiner: What do you call yourself?

Patient: You used to know me as Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Examiner: Isn't he dead?

Patient: Sure he is dead, but I'm alive.

Examiner: But you're Franklin Roosevelt?

Patient: His spirit. He, God and I figured this out. And now I'm going to make a race of healthy people. My agents are lining them up. Say who are you?

Examiner: I'm a doctor here.

Patient: You don't look like a doctor to me. You look like a Russian.

Examiner: How can you tell a Russian from one of your agents?

Patient: I read eyes. I get all my signs from eyes. I look into your eyes and get all my signs from them.

Examiner: Do you sometimes hear voices telling you someone is a Russian?

Patient: No. I just look into eyes. I got a mirror here to look into my own eyes. I know everything that's going on. I can tell by the color, by the way it's shaped.

Examiner: Did you have any trouble with people before you came here?

Patient: Well, only Russians. They were trying to surround me in my neighborhood. One day they tried to drop a bomb on me from the fire escape.

Examiner: How did you know it was a bomb?

Patient: I just knew.

Symptom(s):

Diagnosis: _____