

MODULE 68 SCHIZOPHRENIA

SYMPTOMS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

- **SCHIZOPHRENIA** is a psychological disorder characterized by delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech, and/or diminished or inappropriate emotional expression.
- **PSYCHOSIS** is a psychological disorder in which a person loses contact with reality, experiencing irrational ideas and distorted perceptions.
- **DELUSIONS** is the false beliefs, often of persecution or grandeur, that may accompany psychotic disorders. **HALLUCINATIONS** are false sensory experience, such as seeing something in the absence of an external visual stimulus.
- Disorganized thoughts may result from a breakdown in selective attention.
- Motor behavior could be inappropriate. Catatonia may remain motionless for hours and then become agitated.

ONSET AND DEVELOPMENT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

- Positive symptoms may experience hallucinations, talk in disorganized and deluded ways, and exhibit inappropriate laughter, tears, or rage. Negative symptoms have toneless voices, expressionless faces, or mute and rigid bodies.

UNDERSTANDING SCHIZOPHRENIA

- Schizophrenia is a disease of the brain manifest in symptoms of the mind. Dopamine found that there is an excess of receptors intensifying brain signals in schizophrenia, creating positive symptoms such as hallucinations and paranoia.
- Some have abnormally low brain activity in the frontal lobes, which are critical for reasoning, planning, and problem solving.
- Risk factors for schizophrenia include low birth weight, maternal diabetes, older paternal age, and oxygen deprivation during delivery.
- Genetics can also predict schizophrenia.

TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER: How do researchers believe that biological and environmental factors interact in the onset of schizophrenia?

PRACTICE FRQ: Name three possible warning signs of schizophrenia.