

Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders

An Overview

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Disclosures

None



What is “Psychosis” ?

Psychosis is the term for a collection of symptoms that happen when a person has trouble telling the difference between what is real and what is not.

Two important types:

- **Hallucinations.** Sensory misperception
 - An example of a hallucination is hearing voices that aren't there (auditory hallucination).
- **Delusions.** These are false beliefs that someone holds onto very strongly, even when others don't believe them or there's plenty of evidence that a belief isn't true.
 - For example, people with delusions of control believe someone is controlling their thoughts or actions remotely.

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/symptoms/23012-psychosis>

Possible Causes of Psychosis

Medical Conditions that can cause psychosis (partial list)

- Neurologic: Dementia, seizures, demyelinating diseases, tumors, infection, stroke, delirium
- Endocrinopathies
- Lupus, Lyme Disease
- Vitamin B1 (thiamine) and vitamin B12 deficiencies
- Autoimmune encephalopathies - NMDA

Possible Causes of Psychosis

Other causes of psychosis

- Misuse of alcohol, prescription medications or recreational drugs
- Severe head injuries
 - Concussion
 - Traumatic brain injury

Possible Causes of Psychosis

- Mental Health Conditions
 - Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective disorder, or other psychotic disorders
 - Mood disorder –
 - Bipolar illness: manic phase,
 - Depression (severe – such as post partem psychosis)

Possible Causes of Psychosis

- **Medical Conditions that can cause Psychosis**
 - Neurologic: Dementia, seizures, demyelinating diseases, tumors, infection, stroke, delirium
 - Endocrinopathies
 - Lupus, Lyme Disease, Multiple Sclerosis
 - Vitamin B1 (thiamine) and vitamin B12 deficiencies
 - Autoimmune encephalopathies – NMDA
- **Other Causes of Psychosis**
 - Misuse of alcohol, prescription medications or recreational drugs
 - Severe head injuries
- **Mental Health Conditions**
 - Schizophrenia “Diagnosis of Exclusion”
 - Mood disorder - Bipolar illness: manic phase, Depression (severe – such as post partem psychosis)

Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders

Schizophrenia

Schizoaffective
Disorder

Delusional Disorder

Brief Psychotic
Disorder

Schizopreniform
Disorder

Substance/Medication
induced Psychosis

Psychotic Disorder
due to another
medical condition

Key Features that Define Psychotic Disorders

Abnormalities in one or more of the following domains

- **“Positive” symptoms**

Delusions & Hallucinations

- **“Negative” Symptoms**

Decrease or absence of typical experiences

- **“Cognitive” symptoms**

Disorganized Thinking, Grossly Disorganized or Abnormal Behavior



Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders



Schizophrenia: Diagnosis

- First signs of schizophrenia typically occur in late teens/early twenties
- “Prodromal Period”
 - Months to years of subtle changes in behavior and declining function
 - Person/family seek medical attention when behavior elicits concern



Schizophrenia: Diagnosis

Criterion A. For simplicity

- “Positive” symptoms – hallucination, delusions, disorganization
- “Negative” symptoms – apathy, amotivation, flat affect
- Cognitive symptoms – attention, memory, executive function

Criterion B. Decline in function

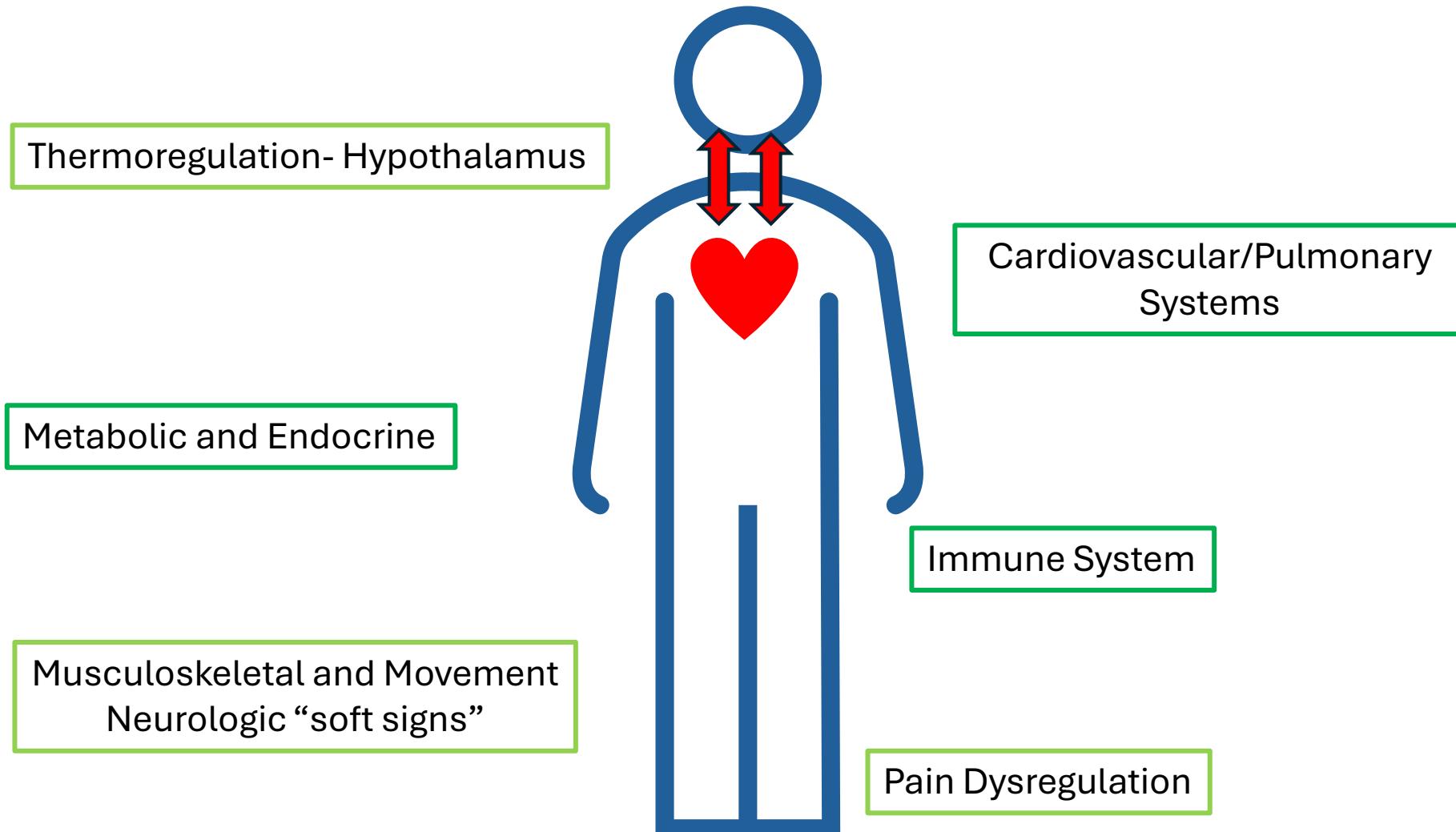
Criterion C. Must be present over at least a six-month period

“Rule out” requirement (can’t be explained by something else)

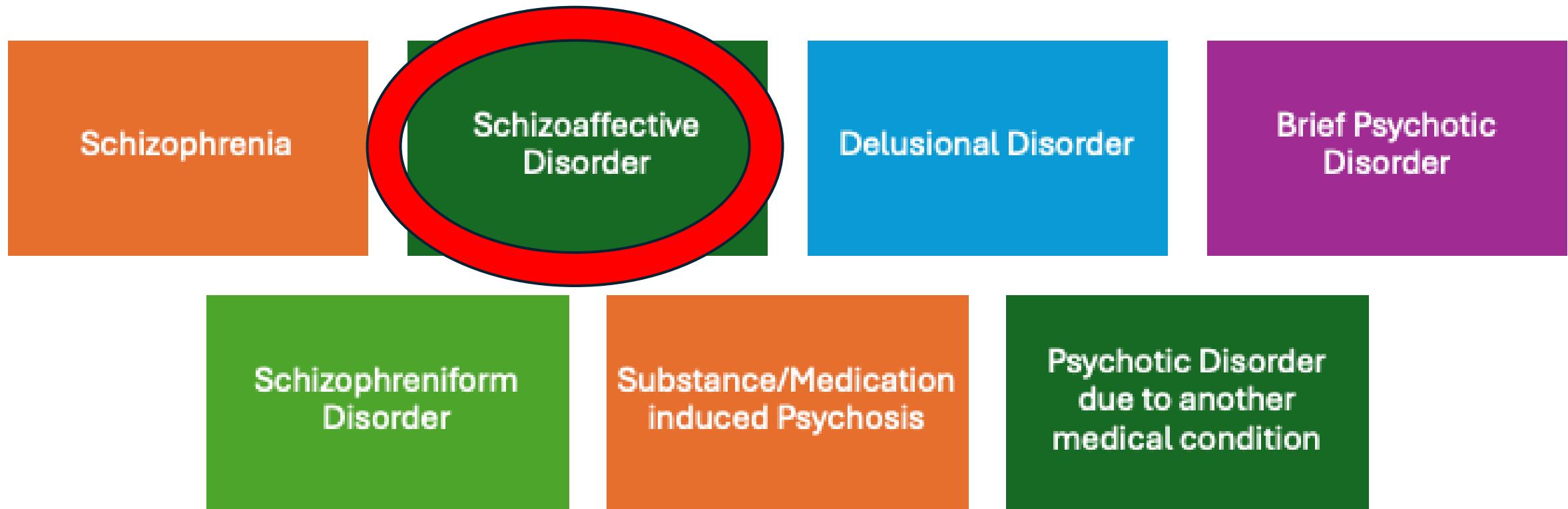
On receiving the diagnosis of schizophrenia...

- Experiencing (or witnessing) the evolution of a mental disease is confusing and frightening... “it felt like my worst nightmare coming true”
- Be sensitive to the fact that stigma, guilt and shame surrounding a psychiatric diagnosis still exist
- **Be sure to counsel the person, parents, and loved ones about the medical basis of this illness, and that their parenting *did not* cause this illness** - despite what some textbooks claimed... ie “the schizophrenogenic mother”

“Whole Body” Perspective of Schizophrenia



Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders



Schizoaffective Disorder

Criterion A. Major mood episode (depression or mania) concurrent with schizophrenia

Criterion B. Delusions or Hallucinations for 2 or more weeks in the absence of a major mood episode

Criterion C. Symptoms that meet criteria for a major mood episode are present for the majority of the duration of the illness

Criterion D. Symptoms not attributable to effects of a substance or another medical condition



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Delusional Disorder

- A. The presence of one or more delusions with a duration of 1 month or longer
- B. Criterion A for schizophrenia has never been met.
- C. Apart from the impact of the delusion(s), functioning is not markedly impaired, and behavior is not markedly odd or bizarre
- D. Any mood episodes have been brief relative to the delusional periods.
- E. Not explainable by substances or another medical condition

Specify type: erotomanic, grandiose, jealous, persecutory, somatic, etc

Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders

Schizophrenia

Schizoaffective
Disorder

Delusional Disorder

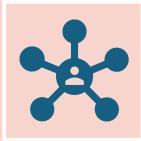
Brief Psychotic
Disorder

Schizopreniform
Disorder

Substance/Medication
induced Psychosis

Psychotic Disorder
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Brief Psychotic Disorder



Presence of one or more of the following symptoms. At least one of these must be 1, 2, or 3.

1. Delusions
2. Hallucinations
3. Disorganized speech
4. Grossly disorganized or catatonic behavior

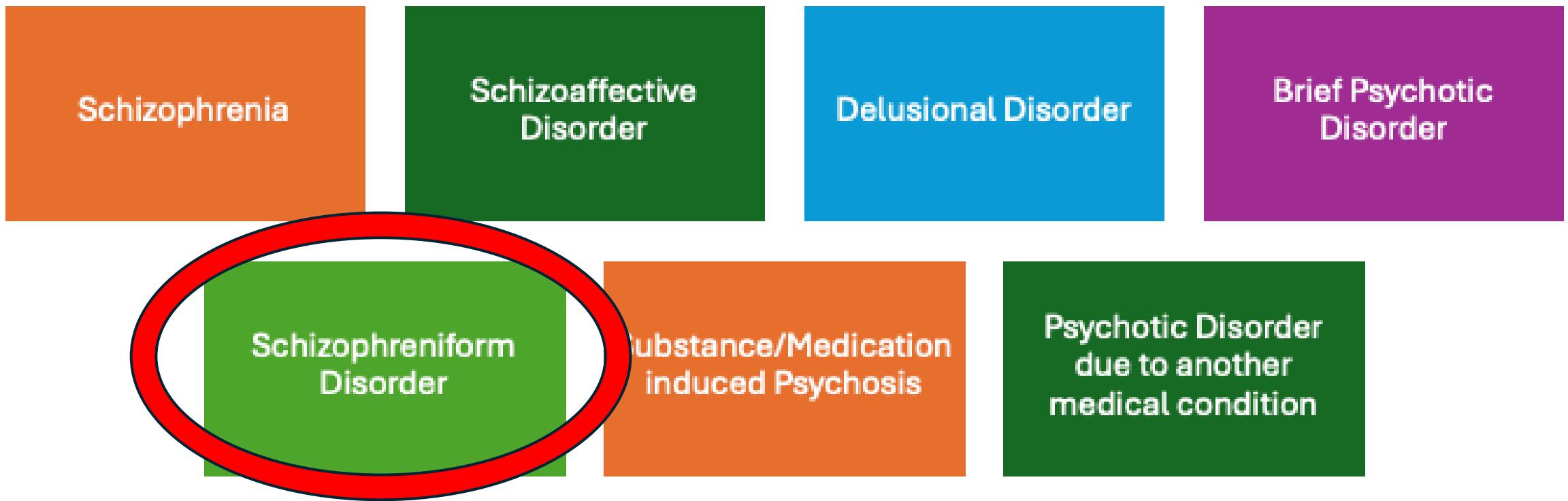


Duration is >1 day but <1 month, with eventual full return to premorbid functioning.



Not explainable by another disorder, substances, or medical condition

Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders



Schizophreniform Disorder

Two or more of the following

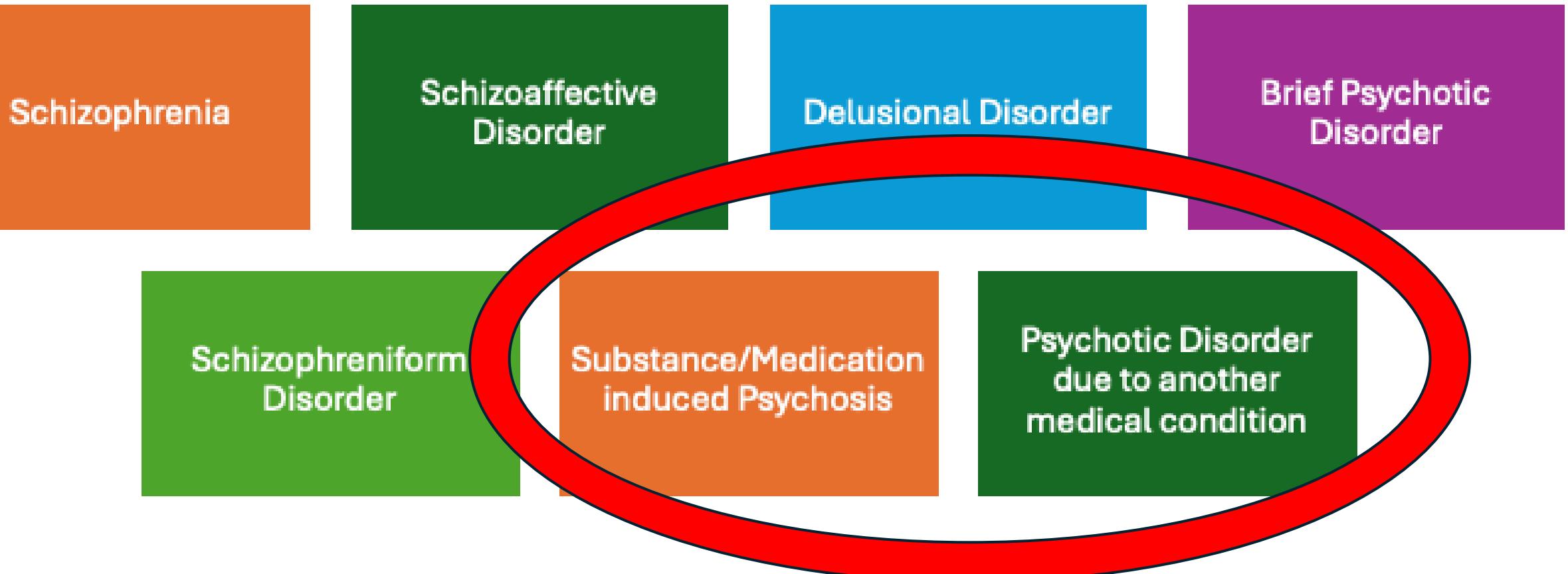
- Delusions
- Hallucinations
- Disorganized speech
- Grossly disorganized behavior
- Negative symptoms

Episode lasts >1 month but < 6 months

Schizoaffective disorder and depressive or bipolar disorder with psychotic features have been ruled out

Not due to substance or another medical condition

Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders



Notes on the “Heterogeneity” of the disease

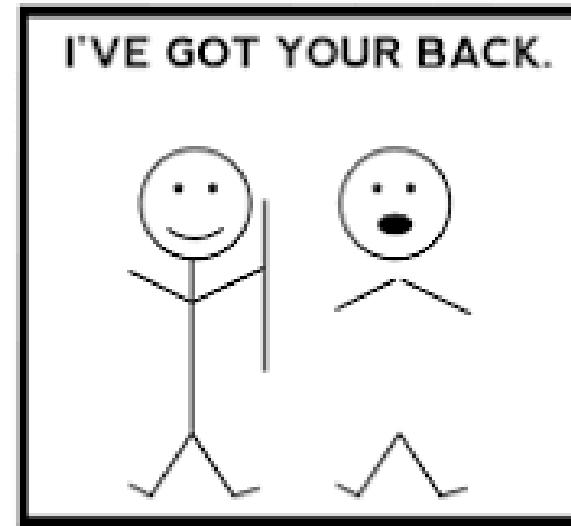


- You can meet criteria for the diagnosis and “look” much different than someone else *who also meets the criteria*.
- This heterogeneity is also apparent in examining the genetics of schizophrenia, and course of illness.
 - “*syndrome*”
 - **Keep in mind then, disease course and outcome among people can be... different.**

“Whatever it is, we don’t know what it is”

Nancy Andreason MD, PhD
Professor, University of Iowa

Thank you !





Questions / Discussion
