

Somatoform Disorders

Conversion Disorder: Physical Disorder caused by psychological stressors (e.g. blindness, paralysis, seizures...) NOT FAKING

Causes:

Primary Gain: Removing the immediate cause of the disorder (not having to deal with a stressful situation)

Secondary Gain: Attention (Your friends give you a “get well” card and feel sorry for you)

IF CONSCIOUSLY FAKING:

Malingering: Faking conversion disorder for primary gain (e.g. to get out of a test)

Factitious Disorder: Faking conversion disorder for secondary gain (e.g. so that people feel sorry for you)

Somatization Disorder: Large list of physical symptoms with a psychological cause.

4 pain symptoms, 2 gastrointestinal symptoms, 1 sexual symptom, 1 pseudoneurological symptom (e.g. “I hurt in my hand and knee, I have a headache, and my toe hurts, it hurts when I urinate, my stomach is upset, I cannot move my legs sometimes)

Hypochondriasis: Think they are sick when they aren't. (e.g. see a large freckle, think they have skin cancer; have a headache, think they have a brain tumor; have a cough, think they have esophageal cancer)

Pain Disorder: Psychologically caused pain. (e.g. Tommy was bitten by a dog when he was 4 and it was painful. Now, whenever he is in a stressful situation he can feel the dog biting him.)

Body Dysmorphic Disorder: delusional belief about a specific body part (or parts) that the part is so ugly that they can't go in public, and causes significant distress. (e.g. I believe my nose is so large and ugly that I cannot go outside – even though my nose is normal)