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Conversion Disorder

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Conversion Disorder

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Conversion Disorder

- Neurologic symptoms that are inconsistent with a neurologic disease
- Symptoms cause distress and/or impairment.
- No radiological or laboratory findings for symptoms
- May have poor outcomes without proper treatment

Compared to Somatization

- Physical symptoms that are distressing and may not be fully explained by a known medical condition after appropriate investigation.
- Symptoms may be caused or exacerbated by anxiety, depression, and interpersonal conflicts.
- It is common for somatization, depression, and anxiety to all occur together
- May be conscious or unconscious
- May be influenced by a desire for the sick role or for personal gain

Compared to Factitious Disorder

- Factitious disorder imposed on self, also known as Munchausen syndrome, is characterized by falsified general medical or psychiatric symptoms.
- Patients deceptively misrepresent, simulate, or cause symptoms of an illness and/or injury in themselves, even in the absence of obvious external rewards such as financial gain, housing, or medications.

Clinical Presentation

Seizure-like activity without a postictal period	Marked cognitive symptoms	Inconsistent physical presentation
Blindness / unable to see or focus, may have visual threat	Word finding difficulties	Very slow or very fast speech
Poor concentration and memory	Weakness or paralysis	May exhibit a lack of concern about symptoms
Symptom inconsistencies	May exhibit a lack of concern about symptoms	May be defensive about psychological or psychiatric services

Treatment: Multidisciplinary Approach

Internal Medicine	Neurology	Psychiatry
Psychology	Physiatry / Physical Medicine & Rehab	Neuropsychology
Primary Care Providers	Physical Therapy	Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy	Nursing	Case Management
Dietitian	Spiritual Care	Outpatient Services
Patient	Family	Support System

**Be honest. Treat the functional impairments.
With treatment and open communication,
expect improvements.**

Stressors

- Relationship changes
- Job loss or change
- Good and bad stress
- Illness of a loved one
- Increase in mental health concerns or recent medication changes

Approaching this with a patient

- **We know you are not making this up**
- *This is your brain and body's reaction to psychological stressors*
- **We will treat the symptoms you are experiencing**
- *Your symptoms will get better with time and treatment*
- *Our team will support you through this*

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