

SCHIZOPHRENIA DISORDER PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Schizophrenia is a mental disorder that affects how a person thinks, feels and behaves. Patients often have difficulty distinguishing between reality and imagination and have difficulty communicating with others. Schizophrenia tends to run in families, but most frequently appears to be related to an imbalance of neurotransmitters that change the way the brain reacts to stimuli. Patients are not normally violent, but may react defensively to even the most well-intended gestures or stimuli.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Positive symptoms
 - Delusions
 - Hallucinations
 - Disorganized speech
 - Disorganized (or catatonic) behavior
- Negative symptoms
 - Flat affect
 - Decrease in emotional range
 - Loss of interest in activities
 - Reduced speaking

DIAGNOSTICS

- At least one positive symptom plus at least one other symptom
- Symptoms must be present for at least six months with at least one month of active symptoms.
- Symptoms not related to substance use or other medical condition.

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Maintain safety & prevent injury
- Assess and monitor cognition

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Assess for suicidal ideations
- Set limits and boundaries
- Encourage expression
- Reorient to reality as appropriate
- Educate on coping skills to manage delusions and hallucinations

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Atypical antipsychotics