

01 - Glossary Signs and Symptoms in Psychiatry

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Glossary of Terms Relating to Signs and Symptoms

abreaction: A process by which repressed material, particularly a painful experience or a conflict, is brought back to consciousness; in this process, the person not only recalls but also relives the repressed material, which is accompanied by the appropriate affective response.

abstract thinking: Thinking characterized by the ability to grasp the essentials of a whole, to break a whole into its parts, and to discern common properties. To think symbolically.

abulia: Reduced impulse to act and to think, associated with indifference about consequences of action. Occurs as a result of neurological deficit, depression, and schizophrenia.

acalculia: Loss of ability to do calculations; not caused by anxiety or impairment in concentration. Occurs with neurological deficit and learning disorder.

acataphasia: Disordered speech in which statements are incorrectly formulated. Patients may express themselves with words that sound like the ones intended but are not appropriate to the thoughts, or they may use totally inappropriate expressions.

acathexis: Lack of feeling associated with an ordinarily emotionally charged subject; in psychoanalysis, it denotes the patient's detaching or transferring of emotion from thoughts and ideas. Also called deacathexis. Occurs in anxiety, dissociative, schizophrenic, and bipolar disorders.

acenesesthesia: Loss of sensation of physical existence.

acrophobia: Dread of high places.

acting out: Behavioral response to an unconscious drive or impulse that brings about temporary partial relief of inner tension; relief is attained by reacting to a present situation as if it were the situation that originally gave rise to the drive or impulse. Common in borderline states.

aculalia: Nonsense speech associated with marked impairment of comprehension. Occurs in mania, schizophrenia, and neurological deficit.

adiadochokinesia: Inability to perform rapid alternating movements. Occurs with neurological deficit and cerebellar lesions.

adynamia: Weakness and fatigability, characteristic of neurasthenia and depression.

aerophagia: Excessive swallowing of air. Seen in anxiety disorder.

affect: The subjective and immediate experience of emotion attached to ideas or mental representations of objects. Affect has outward manifestations that may be classified as restricted, blunted, flattened, broad, labile, appropriate, or inappropriate. See also mood.

ageusia: Lack or impairment of the sense of taste. Seen in depression and neurological deficit.

aggression: Forceful, goal-directed action that may be

verbal or physical; the motor counterpart of the affect of rage, anger, or hostility. Seen in neurological deficit, temporal lobe disorder, impulse-control disorders, mania, and schizophrenia. agitation: Severe anxiety associated with motor restlessness. agnosia: Inability to understand the import or significance of sensory stimuli; cannot be explained by a defect in sensory pathways or cerebral lesion; the term has also been used to refer to the selective loss or disuse of knowledge of specific objects because of emotional circumstances, as seen in certain schizophrenic, anxious, and depressed patients. Occurs with neurological deficit. For types of agnosia, see the specific term. agoraphobia: Morbid fear of open places or leaving the familiar setting of the home. May be present with or without panic attacks. agrammatism: Speech in which the patient forms words into a sentence without regard for grammatical rules. Seen in Alzheimer's and Pick's disease. agraphia: Loss or impairment of a previously possessed ability to write. ailurophobia: Dread of cats. akataphasia: A form of disordered speech in which thoughts cannot be expressed directly but are expressed indirectly such as by making a similar sound (displacement paralogia) or by being derailed into another thought (derailment paralogia). See also derailment. akathisia: Subjective feeling of motor restlessness manifested by a compelling need to be in constant movement; may be seen as an extrapyramidal adverse effect of antipsychotic medication. May be mistaken for psychotic agitation. akinesia: Lack of physical movement, as in the extreme immobility of catatonic schizophrenia; may also occur as an extrapyramidal effect of antipsychotic medication. akinetic mutism: Absence of voluntary motor movement or speech in a patient who is apparently alert (as evidenced by eye movements). Seen in psychotic depression and catatonic states. alexia: Loss of a previously possessed reading facility; not explained by defective visual acuity. Compare with dyslexia. alexithymia: Inability or difficulty in describing or being aware of one's emotions or moods; elaboration of fantasies associated with depression, substance abuse, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). algophobia: Dread of pain. alogia: Inability to speak because of a mental deficiency or an episode of dementia. ambivalence: Coexistence of two opposing impulses toward the same thing in the same

person at the same time. Seen in schizophrenia, borderline states, and obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCDs). amimia: Lack of the ability to make gestures or to comprehend those made by others. amnesia: Partial or total inability to recall past experiences; may be organic (amnestic disorder) or emotional (dissociative amnesia) in origin. amnestic aphasia: Disturbed capacity to name objects, even though they are known to the patient. Also called anomic aphasia. anaclitic: Depending on others, especially as the infant on the mother; analytic depression in children results from an absence of mothering. analgesia: State in which one feels little or no pain. Can occur under hypnosis and in dissociative disorder. anancasm: Repetitious or stereotyped behavior or thought usually used as a tension-relieving device; used as a synonym for obsession and seen in obsessive-compulsive (anankastic) personality. androgyny: Combination of culturally determined female and male characteristics in one person. anergia: Lack of energy. anhedonia: Loss of interest in and withdrawal from all regular and pleasurable activities. Often associated with depression. anomia: Inability to recall the names of objects. anorexia: Loss or decrease in appetite. In anorexia nervosa, appetite may be preserved, but the patient refuses to eat. anosognosia: Inability to recognize a physical deficit in oneself (e.g., patient denies paralyzed limb). anterograde amnesia: Loss of memory for events subsequent to the onset of the amnesia; common after trauma. Compare with retrograde amnesia. anxiety: Feeling of apprehension caused by anticipation of danger, which may be internal or external. apathy: Dulled emotional tone associated with detachment or indifference; observed in certain types of schizophrenia and depression. aphasia:

Any disturbance in the comprehension or expression of language caused by a brain lesion. For types of aphasia, see the specific term. aphonia: Loss of voice. Seen in conversion disorder. apperception: Awareness of the meaning and significance of a particular sensory stimulus as modified by one's own experiences, knowledge, thoughts, and emotions. See also perception. appropriate affect: Emotional tone in harmony with the accompanying idea, thought, or speech. apraxia: Inability to perform a voluntary purposeful motor activity; cannot be explained by paralysis or other motor or sensory impairment. In constructional apraxia, a patient cannot draw two- or three-dimensional forms. astasia abasia: Inability to stand or to walk in a normal manner, even though normal leg movements can be performed in a sitting or lying down position. Seen in conversion disorder. astereognosis: Inability to identify familiar objects by touch. Seen with neurological deficit. See also neurological amnesia. asyndesis: Disorder of language in which the patient combines unconnected ideas and images. Commonly seen in schizophrenia. ataxia: Lack of coordination, physical or mental. (1) In neurology, refers to loss of muscular coordination. (2) In psychiatry, the term intrapsychic ataxia refers to lack of coordination between feelings and thoughts; seen in schizophrenia and in severe OCD. atonia: Lack of muscle tone. See waxy flexibility. attention: Concentration; the aspect of consciousness that relates to the amount of effort exerted in focusing on certain aspects of an experience, activity, or task. Usually impaired in anxiety and depressive disorders. auditory hallucination: False perception of sound, usually voices, but also other noises, such as music. Most common hallucination in psychiatric disorders. audible thoughts: A form of auditory hallucination in which everything the patient thinks or speaks is repeated by the voices. Also known as thought echoing. aura: (1) Warning sensations, such as automatisms, fullness in the stomach, blushing, and changes in respiration, cognitive sensations, and mood states usually experienced before a seizure. (2) A sensory prodrome that precedes a classic migraine headache. autistic thinking: Thinking in which the thoughts are largely narcissistic and egocentric, with emphasis on subjectivity rather than objectivity, and without regard for reality; used interchangeably with autism and dereism. Seen in schizophrenia and autistic disorder. automatic obedience: Strict obedience of command without critical judgment. The person may respond to an inner voice, as in schizophrenia, or to another person's command, as in hypnosis. automatism: Activity carried out without conscious knowledge. autoscopy: Seeing oneself or a double as part of a brief hallucinatory experience. behavior: Sum total of the psyche that includes impulses, motivations, wishes, drives, instincts, and cravings, as expressed by a person's behavior or motor activity. Also called conation. belle indifference: A person showing disinterest in his or her physical complaint. Occurs in conversion disorder. bereavement: Feeling of grief or desolation, especially at the death or loss of a loved one. bizarre delusion: False belief that is patently absurd or fantastic (e.g., invaders from space have implanted electrodes in a person's brain). Common in schizophrenia. In nonbizarre delusion, content is usually within the range of possibility. blackout: Amnesia experienced by alcoholics about behavior during drinking bouts; usually indicates reversible brain damage.

blocking: Abrupt interruption in train of thinking before a thought or idea is finished; after a brief pause, the person indicates no recall of what was being said or was going to be said (also known as thought deprivation or increased thought latency). Common in schizophrenia and severe anxiety. blunted affect: Disturbance of affect manifested by a severe reduction in the intensity of externalized feeling tone; one of the fundamental symptoms of schizophrenia, as outlined by Eugen Bleuler. bradykinesia: Slowness of motor activity, with a decrease in normal spontaneous

movement. bradylalia: Abnormally slow speech. Common in depression. bradylexia: Inability to read at normal speed. bruxism: Grinding or gnashing of the teeth, typically occurring during sleep. Seen in anxiety disorder. carebaria: Sensation of discomfort or pressure in the head. catalepsy: Condition in which persons maintain the body position into which they are placed; observed in severe cases of catatonic schizophrenia. Compare with waxy flexibility and cerea flexibilitas. See also command automatism. cataplexy: Temporary sudden loss of muscle tone, causing weakness and immobilization; can be precipitated by a variety of emotional states and is often followed by sleep. Commonly seen in narcolepsy. catastrophic reaction: Extreme emotional state characterized by restlessness, irritability, crying, anxiety, and uncooperativeness. Seen in patients who have had a stroke. catatonic excitement: Excited, uncontrolled motor activity seen in catatonic schizophrenia. Patients in catatonic state may suddenly erupt into an excited state and may be violent. catatonic posturing: Voluntary assumption of an inappropriate or bizarre posture, generally maintained for long periods of time. May switch unexpectedly with catatonic excitement. catatonic rigidity: Fixed and sustained motoric position that is resistant to change. catatonic stupor: Stupor in which patients ordinarily are well aware of their surroundings. cathexis: In psychoanalysis, a conscious or unconscious investment of psychic energy in an idea, concept, object, or person. Compare with acathexis. causalgia: Burning pain that may be organic or psychic in origin. cenesthesia: Change in the normal quality of feeling tone in a part of the body. cephalgia: Headache. cerea flexibilitas: Condition of a person who can be molded into a position that is then maintained; when an examiner moves the person's limb, the limb feels as if it were made of wax. Also called waxy flexibility. Seen in schizophrenia. chorea: Movement disorder characterized by random and involuntary quick, jerky, purposeless movements. Seen in Huntington's disease.

circumstantiality: Disturbance in the associative thought and speech processes in which a patient digresses into unnecessary details and inappropriate thoughts before communicating the central idea. Observed in schizophrenia, obsessional disturbances, and certain cases of dementia. See also tangentiality. clang association: Association or speech directed by the sound of a word rather than by its meaning; words have no logical connection; punning and rhyming may dominate the verbal behavior. Seen most frequently in schizophrenia or mania. claustrophobia: Abnormal fear of closed or confining spaces. clonic convulsion: An involuntary, violent muscular contraction or spasm in which the muscles alternately contract and relax. Characteristic phase in grand mal epileptic seizure. clouding of consciousness: Any disturbance of consciousness in which the person is not fully awake, alert, and oriented. Occurs in delirium, dementia, and cognitive disorder. cluttering: Disturbance of fluency involving an abnormally rapid rate and erratic rhythm of speech that impedes intelligibility; the affected individual is usually unaware of communicative impairment. cognition: Mental process of knowing and becoming aware; function is closely associated with judgment. coma: State of profound unconsciousness from which a person cannot be roused, with minimal or no detectable responsiveness to stimuli; seen in injury or disease of the brain, in systemic conditions such as diabetic ketoacidosis and uremia, and in intoxications with alcohol and other drugs. Coma may also occur in severe catatonic states and in conversion disorder. coma vigil: Coma in which a patient appears to be asleep but can be aroused (also known as akinetic mutism). command automatism: Condition in which suggestions are followed automatically. command hallucination: False perception of orders that a person may feel obliged to obey or unable to resist. complex: A feeling-toned idea. complex partial seizure: A seizure characterized by alterations in consciousness that may be accompanied by complex hallucinations (sometimes olfactory) or illusions. During the seizure, a state of impaired consciousness resembling a dreamlike

state may occur, and the patient may exhibit repetitive, automatic, or semipurposeful behavior. compulsion: Pathological need to act on an impulse that, if resisted, produces anxiety; repetitive behavior in response to an obsession or performed according to certain rules, with no true end in itself other than to prevent something from occurring in the future. conation: That part of a person's mental life concerned with cravings, strivings, motivations, drives, and wishes as expressed through behavior or motor activity. concrete thinking: Thinking characterized by actual things, events, and immediate experience rather than by abstractions; seen in young children, in those who have

lost or never developed the ability to generalize (as in certain cognitive mental disorders), and in schizophrenic persons. Compare with abstract thinking. condensation: Mental process in which one symbol stands for a number of components. confabulation: Unconscious filling of gaps in memory by imagining experiences or events that have no basis in fact, commonly seen in amnesic syndromes; should be differentiated from lying. See also paramnesia. confusion: Disturbances of consciousness manifested by a disordered orientation in relation to time, place, or person. consciousness: State of awareness, with response to external stimuli. constipation: Inability to defecate or difficulty in defecating. constricted affect: Reduction in intensity of feeling tone that is less severe than that of blunted affect. constructional apraxia: Inability to copy a drawing, such as a cube, clock, or pentagon, as a result of a brain lesion. conversion phenomena: The development of symbolic physical symptoms and distortions involving the voluntary muscles or special sense organs; not under voluntary control and not explained by any physical disorder. Most common in conversion disorder but also seen in a variety of mental disorders. convulsion: An involuntary, violent muscular contraction or spasm. See also clonic convulsion and tonic convulsion. coprolalia: Involuntary use of vulgar or obscene language. Observed in some cases of schizophrenia and in Tourette's syndrome. coprophagia: Eating of filth or feces. cryptographia: A private written language. cryptolalia: A private spoken language. cycloplegia: Paralysis of the muscles of accommodation in the eye; observed, at times, as an autonomic adverse effect (anticholinergic effect) of antipsychotic or antidepressant medication. decompensation: Deterioration of psychic functioning caused by a breakdown of defense mechanisms. Seen in psychotic states. déjà entendu: Illusion that what one is hearing one has heard previously. See also paramnesia. déjà pensé: Condition in which a thought never entertained before is incorrectly regarded as a repetition of a previous thought. See also paramnesia. déjà vu: Illusion of visual recognition in which a new situation is incorrectly regarded as a repetition of a previous experience. See also paramnesia. delirium: Acute reversible mental disorder characterized by confusion and some impairment of consciousness; generally associated with emotional lability, hallucinations or illusions, and inappropriate, impulsive, irrational, or violent behavior. delirium tremens: Acute and sometimes fatal reaction to withdrawal from alcohol,

usually occurring 72 to 96 hours after the cessation of heavy drinking; distinctive characteristics are marked autonomic hyperactivity (tachycardia, fever, hyperhidrosis, and dilated pupils), usually accompanied by tremulousness, hallucinations, illusions, and delusions. Called alcohol withdrawal with perceptual disturbance in DSM-5. See also formication. delusion: False belief, based on incorrect inference about external reality, that is firmly held despite objective and obvious contradictory proof or evidence and despite the fact that other members of the culture do not share the belief. delusion of control: False belief that a person's will, thoughts, or feelings are being controlled by external forces. delusion of grandeur: Exaggerated conception of one's importance,

power, or identity. delusion of infidelity: False belief that one's lover is unfaithful. Sometimes called pathological jealousy. delusion of persecution: False belief of being harassed or persecuted; often found in litigious patients who have a pathological tendency to take legal action because of imagined mistreatment. Most common delusion. delusion of poverty: False belief that one is bereft or will be deprived of all material possessions. delusion of reference: False belief that the behavior of others refers to oneself or that events, objects, or other people have a particular and unusual significance, usually of a negative nature; derived from idea of reference, in which persons falsely feel that others are talking about them (e.g., belief that people on television or radio are talking to or about the person). See also thought broadcasting. delusion of self-accusation: False feeling of remorse and guilt. Seen in depression with psychotic features. dementia: Mental disorder characterized by general impairment in intellectual functioning without clouding of consciousness; characterized by failing memory, difficulty with calculations, distractibility, alterations in mood and affect, impaired judgment and abstraction, reduced facility with language, and disturbance of orientation. Although irreversible because of underlying progressive degenerative brain disease, dementia may be reversible if the cause can be treated. Also known as major neurocognitive disorder in DSM-5. denial: Defense mechanism in which the existence of unpleasant realities is disavowed; refers to keeping out of conscious awareness any aspects of external reality that, if acknowledged, would produce anxiety. depersonalization: Sensation of unreality concerning oneself, parts of oneself, or one's environment that occurs under extreme stress or fatigue. Seen in schizophrenia, depersonalization disorder, and schizotypal personality disorder. depression: Mental state characterized by feelings of sadness, loneliness, despair, low self-esteem, and self-reproach; accompanying signs include psychomotor retardation or, at times, agitation, withdrawal from interpersonal contact, and vegetative symptoms, such as insomnia and anorexia. The term refers to a mood that is so characterized or a mood disorder.

derailment: Gradual or sudden deviation in train of thought without blocking; sometimes used synonymously with loosening of association. derealization: Sensation of changed reality or that one's surroundings have altered. Usually seen in schizophrenia, panic attacks, and dissociative disorders. dereism: Mental activity that follows a totally subjective and idiosyncratic system of logic and fails to take the facts of reality or experience into consideration. Characteristic of schizophrenia. See also autistic thinking. detachment: Characterized by distant interpersonal relationships and lack of emotional involvement. devaluation: Defense mechanism in which a person attributes excessively negative qualities to self or others. Seen in depression and paranoid personality disorder. diminished libido: Decreased sexual interest and drive. (Increased libido is often associated with mania.) dipsomania: Compulsion to drink alcoholic beverages. disinhibition: (1) Removal of an inhibitory effect, as in the reduction of the inhibitory function of the cerebral cortex by alcohol. (2) In psychiatry, a greater freedom to act in accordance with inner drives or feelings and with less regard for restraints dictated by cultural norms or one's superego. disorientation: Confusion; impairment of awareness of time, place, and person (the position of the self in relation to other persons). Characteristic of cognitive disorders. displacement: Unconscious defense mechanism by which the emotional component of an unacceptable idea or object is transferred to a more acceptable one. Seen in phobias. dissociation: Unconscious defense mechanism involving the segregation of any group of mental or behavioral processes from the rest of the person's psychic activity; may entail the separation of an idea from its accompanying emotional tone, as seen in dissociative and conversion disorders. distractibility: Inability to focus one's attention; the patient does not respond to the task at hand but attends to irrelevant

phenomena in the environment. dread: Massive or pervasive anxiety, usually related to a specific danger. dreamy state: Altered state of consciousness, likened to a dream situation that develops suddenly and usually lasts a few minutes; accompanied by visual, auditory, and olfactory hallucinations. Commonly associated with temporal lobe lesions. drowsiness: State of impaired awareness associated with a desire or inclination to sleep. dysarthria: Difficulty in articulation, the motor activity of shaping phonated sounds into speech, not in word finding or in grammar. dyscalculia: Difficulty in performing calculations. dysgeusia: Impaired sense of taste. dysgraphia: Difficulty in writing. dyskinesia: Difficulty in performing movements. Seen in extrapyramidal disorders. dyslalia: Faulty articulation caused by structural abnormalities of the articulatory organs or impaired hearing.

dyslexia: Specific learning disability syndrome involving an impairment of the previously acquired ability to read; unrelated to the person's intelligence. Compare with alexia. dysmegalopsia: A distortion in which the size and shape of objects is misperceived, sometimes called the "Alice in Wonderland" effect. See also illusion. dysmetria: Impaired ability to gauge distance relative to movements. Seen in neurological deficit. dysmnnesia: Impaired memory. dyspareunia: Physical pain in sexual intercourse, usually emotionally caused and more commonly experienced by women; may also result from cystitis, urethritis, or other medical conditions. dysphagia: Difficulty in swallowing. dysphasia: Difficulty in comprehending oral language (reception dysphasia) or in trying to express verbal language (expressive dysphasia). dysphonia: Difficulty or pain in speaking. dysphoria: Feeling of unpleasantness or discomfort; a mood of general dissatisfaction and restlessness. Occurs in depression and anxiety. dysprosody: Loss of normal speech melody (prosody). Common in depression. dystonia: Extrapyramidal motor disturbance consisting of slow, sustained contractions of the axial or appendicular musculature; one movement often predominates, leading to relatively sustained postural deviations; acute dystonic reactions (facial grimacing and torticollis) are occasionally seen with the initiation of antipsychotic drug therapy. echolalia: Psychopathological repeating of words or phrases of one person by another; tends to be repetitive and persistent. Seen in certain kinds of schizophrenia, particularly the catatonic types. ego-alien: Denoting aspects of a person's personality that are viewed as repugnant, unacceptable, or inconsistent with the rest of the personality. Also called egodystonia. Compare with ego-syntonic. egocentric: Self-centered; selfishly preoccupied with one's own needs; lacking interest in others. ego-dystonic: See ego-alien. egomania: Morbid self-preoccupation or self-centeredness. See also narcissism. ego-syntonic: Denoting aspects of a personality that are viewed as acceptable and consistent with that person's total personality. Personality traits are usually egosyntonic. Compare with ego-alien. eidetic image: Unusually vivid or exact mental image of objects previously seen or imagined. elation: Mood consisting of feelings of joy, euphoria, triumph, and intense self-satisfaction or optimism. Occurs in mania when not grounded in reality. elevated mood: Air of confidence and enjoyment; a mood more cheerful than normal but not necessarily pathological.

emotion: Complex feeling state with psychic, somatic, and behavioral components; external manifestation of emotion is affect. emotional insight: A level of understanding or awareness that one has emotional problems. It facilitates positive changes in personality and behavior when present. emotional lability: Excessive emotional responsiveness characterized by unstable and rapidly changing emotions. encopresis: Involuntary passage of feces, usually occurring at night or during sleep. enuresis: Incontinence of urine during sleep. erotomania: Delusional belief, more common in women than in men, that someone is deeply in love with them (also known as de

Clérambault syndrome). erythrophobia: Abnormal fear of blushing. euphoria: Exaggerated feeling of well-being that is inappropriate to real events. Can occur with drugs such as opiates, amphetamines, and alcohol. euthymia: Normal range of mood, implying absence of depressed or elevated mood. evasion: Act of not facing up to, or strategically eluding, something; consists of suppressing an idea that is next in a thought series and replacing it with another idea closely related to it. Also called paralogia and perverted logic. exaltation: Feeling of intense elation and grandeur. excited: Agitated, purposeless motor activity uninfluenced by external stimuli. expansive mood: Expression of feelings without restraint, frequently with an overestimation of their significance or importance. Seen in mania and grandiose delusional disorder. expressive aphasia: Disturbance of speech in which understanding remains, but ability to speak is grossly impaired; halting, laborious, and inaccurate speech (also known as Broca's, nonfluent, and motor aphasia). expressive dysphasia: Difficulty in expressing verbal language; the ability to understand language is intact. externalization: More general term than projection that refers to the tendency to perceive in the external world and in external objects elements of one's own personality, including instinctual impulses, conflicts, moods, attitudes, and styles of thinking. extroversion: State of one's energies being directed outside oneself. Compare with introversion. false memory: A person's recollection and belief by the patient of an event that did not actually occur. In false memory syndrome, persons erroneously believe that they sustained an emotional or physical (e.g., sexual) trauma in early life. fantasy: Daydream; fabricated mental picture of a situation or chain of events. A normal form of thinking dominated by unconscious material that seeks wish fulfillment and solutions to conflicts; may serve as the matrix for creativity. The content of the fantasy may indicate mental illness. fatigue: A feeling of weariness, sleepiness, or irritability after a period of mental or bodily activity. Seen in depression, anxiety, neurasthenia, and somatoform disorders. fausse reconnaissance: False recognition, a feature of paramnesia. Can occur in

delusional disorders. fear: Unpleasurable emotional state consisting of psychophysiological changes in response to a realistic threat or danger. Compare with anxiety. flat affect: Absence or near absence of any signs of affective expression. flight of ideas: Rapid succession of fragmentary thoughts or speech in which content changes abruptly and speech may be incoherent. Seen in mania. floccillation: Aimless plucking or picking, usually at bedclothes or clothing, commonly seen in dementia and delirium. fluent aphasia: Aphasia characterized by inability to understand the spoken word; fluent but incoherent speech is present. Also called Wernicke's, sensory and receptive aphasia. folie à deux: Mental illness shared by two persons, usually involving a common delusional system; if it involves three persons, it is referred to as folie à trois, etc. Also called shared psychotic disorder. formal thought disorder: Disturbance in the form of thought rather than the content of thought; thinking characterized by loosened associations, neologisms, and illogical constructs; thought process is disordered, and the person is defined as psychotic. Characteristic of schizophrenia. formication: Tactile hallucination involving the sensation that tiny insects are crawling over the skin. Seen in cocaine addiction and delirium tremens. free-floating anxiety: Severe, pervasive, generalized anxiety that is not attached to any particular idea, object, or event. Observed particularly in anxiety disorders, although it may be seen in some cases of schizophrenia. fugue: Dissociative disorder characterized by a period of almost complete amnesia, during which a person actually flees from an immediate life situation and begins a different life pattern; apart from the amnesia, mental faculties and skills are usually unimpaired. galactorrhea: Abnormal discharge of milk from the breast; may result from the endocrine influence (e.g., prolactin) of dopamine receptor antagonists, such as phenothiazines. generalized tonic-clonic seizure: Generalized onset

of tonic-clonic movements of the limbs, tongue biting, and incontinence followed by slow, gradual recovery of consciousness and cognition; also called grand mal seizure. global aphasia: Combination of grossly nonfluent aphasia and severe fluent aphasia. glossolalia: Unintelligible jargon that has meaning to the speaker but not to the listener. Occurs in schizophrenia. grandiosity: Exaggerated feelings of one's importance, power, knowledge, or identity. Occurs in delusional disorder and manic states. grief: Alteration in mood and affect consisting of sadness appropriate to a real loss; normally, it is self-limited. See also depression and mourning. guilt: Emotional state associated with self-reproach and the need for punishment. In psychoanalysis, refers to a feeling of culpability that stems from a conflict between

the ego and the superego (conscience). Guilt has normal psychological and social functions, but special intensity or absence of guilt characterizes many mental disorders, such as depression and antisocial personality disorder, respectively. Psychiatrists distinguish shame as a less internalized form of guilt that relates more to others than to the self. See also shame. gustatory hallucination: Hallucination primarily involving taste. gynecomastia: Female-like development of the male breasts; may occur as an adverse effect of antipsychotic and antidepressant drugs because of increased prolactin levels or anabolic-androgenic steroid abuse. hallucination: False sensory perception occurring in the absence of any relevant external stimulation of the sensory modality involved. For types of hallucinations, see the specific term. hallucinosis: State in which a person experiences hallucinations without any impairment of consciousness. haptic hallucination: Hallucination of touch. hebephrenia: Complex of symptoms, considered a form of schizophrenia, characterized by wild or silly behavior or mannerisms, inappropriate affect, and delusions and hallucinations that are transient and unsystematized. Hebephrenic schizophrenia is now called disorganized schizophrenia. holophrastic: Using a single word to express a combination of ideas. Seen in schizophrenia. hyperactivity: Increased muscular activity. The term is commonly used to describe a disturbance found in children that is manifested by constant restlessness, overactivity, distractibility, and difficulties in learning. Seen in attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). hyperacusis: Extreme sensitivity to sounds. hyperalgesia: Excessive sensitivity to pain. Seen in somatoform disorder. hyperesthesia: Increased sensitivity to tactile stimulation. hypermnesia: Exaggerated degree of retention and recall. It can be elicited by hypnosis and may be seen in certain prodigies; also may be a feature of OCD, some cases of schizophrenia, and manic episodes of bipolar I disorder. hyperphagia: Increase in appetite and intake of food. hyperpragia: Excessive thinking and mental activity. Generally associated with manic episodes of bipolar I disorder. hypersomnia: Excessive time spent asleep. May be associated with underlying medical or psychiatric disorder or narcolepsy, may be part of the Kleine-Levin syndrome, or may be primary. hyperventilation: Excessive breathing, generally associated with anxiety, which can reduce blood carbon dioxide concentration and can produce lightheadedness, palpitations, numbness, tingling periorally and in the extremities, and, occasionally, syncope. hypervigilance: Excessive attention to and focus on all internal and external stimuli;

usually seen in delusional or paranoid states. hypesthesia: Diminished sensitivity to tactile stimulation. hypnagogic hallucination: Hallucination occurring while falling asleep, not ordinarily considered pathological. hypnopompic hallucination: Hallucination occurring while awakening from sleep, not ordinarily considered pathological. hypnosis: Artificially induced alteration of consciousness characterized by increased suggestibility and receptivity to direction. hypoactivity: Decreased motor and cognitive activity, as in psychomotor retardation; visible slowing of thought,

speech, and movements. Also called hypokinesia. hypochondria: Exaggerated concern about health that is based not on real medical pathology but on unrealistic interpretations of physical signs or sensations as abnormal. hypomania: Mood abnormality with the qualitative characteristics of mania but somewhat less intense. Seen in cyclothymic disorder. idea of reference: Misinterpretation of incidents and events in the outside world as having direct personal reference to oneself; occasionally observed in normal persons, but frequently seen in paranoid patients. If present with sufficient frequency or intensity or if organized and systematized, they constitute delusions of reference. illogical thinking: Thinking containing erroneous conclusions or internal contradictions; psychopathological only when it is marked and not caused by cultural values or intellectual deficit. illusion: Perceptual misinterpretation of a real external stimulus. Compare with hallucination. immediate memory: Reproduction, recognition, or recall of perceived material within seconds after presentation. Compare with long-term memory and short-term memory. impaired insight: Diminished ability to understand the objective reality of a situation. impaired judgment: Diminished ability to understand a situation correctly and to act appropriately. impulse control: Ability to resist an impulse, drive, or temptation to perform some action. inappropriate affect: Emotional tone out of harmony with the idea, thought, or speech accompanying it. Seen in schizophrenia. incoherence: Communication that is disconnected, disorganized, or incomprehensible. See also word salad. incorporation: Primitive unconscious defense mechanism in which the psychic representation of another person or aspects of another person are assimilated into oneself through a figurative process of symbolic oral ingestion; represents a special form of introjection and is the earliest mechanism of identification. increased libido: Increase in sexual interest and drive. ineffability: Ecstatic state in which persons insist that their experience is inexpressible

and indescribable and that it is impossible to convey what it is like to one who never experienced it. initial insomnia: Falling asleep with difficulty; usually seen in anxiety disorder. Compare with middle insomnia and terminal insomnia. insight: Conscious recognition of one's own condition. In psychiatry, it refers to the conscious awareness and understanding of one's own psychodynamics and symptoms of maladaptive behavior; highly important in effecting changes in the personality and behavior of a person. insomnia: Difficulty in falling asleep or difficulty in staying asleep. It can be related to a mental disorder, can be related to a physical disorder or an adverse effect of medication, or can be primary (not related to a known medical factor or another mental disorder). See also initial insomnia, middle insomnia, and terminal insomnia. intellectual insight: Knowledge of the reality of a situation without the ability to use that knowledge successfully to effect an adaptive change in behavior or to master the situation. Compare with true insight. intelligence: Capacity for learning and ability to recall, to integrate constructively, and to apply what one has learned; the capacity to understand and to think rationally. intoxication: Mental disorder caused by recent ingestion or presence in the body of an exogenous substance producing maladaptive behavior by virtue of its effects on the central nervous system (CNS). The most common psychiatric changes involve disturbances of perception, wakefulness, attention, thinking, judgment, emotional control, and psychomotor behavior; the specific clinical picture depends on the substance ingested. intropunitive: Turning anger inward toward oneself. Commonly observed in depressed patients. introspection: Contemplating one's own mental processes to achieve insight. introversion: State in which a person's energies are directed inward toward the self, with little or no interest in the external world. irrelevant answer: Answer that is not responsive to the question. irritability: Abnormal or excessive excitability, with easily triggered anger, annoyance, or

impatience. irritable mood: State in which one is easily annoyed and provoked to anger. See also irritability. jamais vu: Paramnesic phenomenon characterized by a false feeling of unfamiliarity with a real situation that one has previously experienced. jargon aphasia: Aphasia in which the words produced are neologistic; that is, nonsense words created by the patient. judgment: Mental act of comparing or evaluating choices within the framework of a given set of values for the purpose of electing a course of action. If the course of action chosen is consonant with reality or with mature adult standards of behavior, then judgment is said to be intact or normal; judgment is said to be impaired if the

chosen course of action is frankly maladaptive, results from impulsive decisions based on the need for immediate gratification, or is otherwise not consistent with reality as measured by mature adult standards. kleptomania: Pathological compulsion to steal. la belle indifférence: Inappropriate attitude of calm or lack of concern about one's disability. May be seen in patients with conversion disorder. labile affect: Affective expression characterized by rapid and abrupt changes, unrelated to external stimuli. labile mood: Oscillations in mood between euphoria and depression or anxiety. laconic speech: Condition characterized by a reduction in the quantity of spontaneous speech; replies to questions are brief and unelaborated, and little or no unprompted additional information is provided. Occurs in major depression, schizophrenia, and organic mental disorders. Also called poverty of speech. lethologica: Momentary forgetting of a name or proper noun. See blocking. lilliputian hallucination: Visual sensation that persons or objects are reduced in size; more properly regarded as an illusion. See also micropsia. localized amnesia: Partial loss of memory; amnesia restricted to specific or isolated experiences. Also called lacunar amnesia and patch amnesia. logoclonia: Repeated use of the same word. See perseveration. logorrhea: Copious, pressured, coherent speech; uncontrollable, excessive talking; observed in manic episodes of bipolar disorder. Also called tachylogia, verbomania, and volubility. long-term memory: Reproduction, recognition, or recall of experiences or information that was experienced in the distant past. Also called remote memory. Compare with immediate memory and short-term memory. loosening of associations: Characteristic schizophrenic thinking or speech disturbance involving a disorder in the logical progression of thoughts, manifested as a failure to communicate verbally adequately; unrelated and unconnected ideas shift from one subject to another. See also tangentiality. macropsia: False perception that objects are larger than they really are. Compare with micropsia. magical thinking: A form of dereistic thought; thinking similar to that of the preoperational phase in children (Jean Piaget), in which thoughts, words, or actions assume power (e.g., to cause or to prevent events). malingering: Feigning disease to achieve a specific goal, for example, to avoid an unpleasant responsibility. mania: Mood state characterized by elation, agitation, hyperactivity, hypersexuality, and accelerated thinking and speaking (flight of ideas). Seen in bipolar I disorder. See also hypomania. manipulation: Maneuvering by patients to get their own way, characteristic of

antisocial personalities. mannerism: Ingrained, habitual involuntary movement. melancholia: Severe depressive state. Used in the term involuntional melancholia as a descriptive term and also in reference to a distinct diagnostic entity. memory: Process whereby what is experienced or learned is established as a record in the CNS (registration), where it persists with a variable degree of permanence (retention) and can be recollected or retrieved from storage at will (recall). For types of memory, see immediate memory, long-term memory, and short-term memory. mental disorder: Psychiatric illness or disease whose manifestations are characterized primarily by behavioral or psychological impairment of function, measured in terms of deviation from some

normative concept; associated with distress or disease, not just an expected response to a particular event or limited to relations between a person and society. mental retardation: Subaverage general intellectual functioning that originates in the developmental period and is associated with impaired maturation and learning and social maladjustment. Retardation is commonly defined in terms of intelligence quotient (IQ): mild (between 50 and 55 to 70), moderate (between 35 and 40 to between 50 and 55), severe (between 20 and 25 to between 35 and 40), and profound (below 20 to 25). metonymy: Speech disturbance common in schizophrenia in which the affected person uses a word or phrase that is related to the proper one but is not the one ordinarily used; for example, the patient speaks of consuming a menu rather than a meal or refers to losing the piece of string of the conversation rather than the thread of the conversation. See also paraphasia and word approximation. microcephaly: Condition in which the head is unusually small as a result of defective brain development and premature ossification of the skull. micropsia: False perception that objects are smaller than they really are. Sometimes called lilliputian hallucination. Compare with macropsia. middle insomnia: Waking up after falling asleep without difficulty and then having difficulty in falling asleep again. Compare with initial insomnia and terminal insomnia. mimicry: Simple, imitative motion activity of childhood. monomania: Mental state characterized by preoccupation with one subject. mood: Pervasive and sustained feeling tone that is experienced internally and that, in the extreme, can markedly influence virtually all aspects of a person's behavior and perception of the world. Distinguished from affect, the external expression of the internal feeling tone. For types of mood, see the specific term. mood-congruent delusion: Delusion with content that is mood appropriate (e.g., depressed patients who believe that they are responsible for the destruction of the world). mood-congruent hallucination: Hallucination with content that is consistent with a depressed or manic mood (e.g., depressed patients hearing voices telling them that

they are bad persons and manic patients hearing voices telling them that they have inflated worth, power, or knowledge). mood-incongruent delusion: Delusion based on incorrect reference about external reality, with content that has no association to mood or is mood inappropriate (e.g., depressed patients who believe that they are the new Messiah). mood-incongruent hallucination: Hallucination not associated with real external stimuli, with content that is not consistent with depressed or manic mood (e.g., in depression, hallucinations not involving such themes as guilt, deserved punishment, or inadequacy; in mania, not involving such themes as inflated worth or power). mood swings: Oscillation of a person's emotional feeling tone between periods of elation and periods of depression. motor aphasia: Aphasia in which understanding is intact, but the ability to speak is lost. Also called Broca's, expressive, or nonfluent aphasias. mourning: Syndrome following loss of a loved one, consisting of preoccupation with the lost individual, weeping, sadness, and repeated reliving of memories. See also bereavement and grief. muscle rigidity: State in which the muscles remain immovable; seen in schizophrenia. mutism: Organic or functional absence of the faculty of speech. See also stupor. mydriasis: Dilation of the pupil; sometimes occurs as an autonomic (anticholinergic) or atropine-like adverse effect of some antipsychotic and antidepressant drugs. narcissism: In psychoanalytic theory, divided into primary and secondary types: primary narcissism, the early infantile phase of object relationship development, when the child has not differentiated the self from the outside world, and all sources of pleasure are unrealistically recognized as coming from within the self, giving the child a false sense of omnipotence; secondary narcissism, when the libido, once attached to external love objects, is redirected back to the self. See also autistic thinking. needle phobia: The persistent, intense,

pathological fear of receiving an injection. negative signs: In schizophrenia: flat affect, alogia, abulia, and apathy. negativism: Verbal or nonverbal opposition or resistance to outside suggestions and advice; commonly seen in catatonic schizophrenia in which the patient resists any effort to be moved or does the opposite of what is asked. neologism: New word or phrase whose derivation cannot be understood; often seen in schizophrenia. It has also been used to mean a word that has been incorrectly constructed but whose origins are nonetheless understandable (e.g., head shoe to mean hat), but such constructions are more properly referred to as word approximations. neurological amnesia: (1) Auditory amnesia: loss of ability to comprehend sounds or speech. (2) Tactile amnesia: loss of ability to judge the shape of objects by touch. See also astereognosis. (3) Verbal amnesia: loss of ability to remember words. (4) Visual amnesia: loss of ability to recall or to recognize familiar objects or printed words. nihilism: Delusion of the nonexistence of the self or part of the self; also refers to an

attitude of total rejection of established values or extreme skepticism regarding moral and value judgments. nihilistic delusion: Depressive delusion that the world and everything related to it have ceased to exist. noesis: Revelation in which immense illumination occurs in association with a sense that one has been chosen to lead and command. Can occur in manic or dissociative states. nominal aphasia: Aphasia characterized by difficulty in giving the correct name of an object. See also anomia and amnesic aphasia. nymphomania: Abnormal, excessive, insatiable desire in a woman for sexual intercourse. Compare with satyriasis. obsession: Persistent and recurrent idea, thought, or impulse that cannot be eliminated from consciousness by logic or reasoning; obsessions are involuntary and egodystonic. See also compulsion. olfactory hallucination: Hallucination primarily involving smell or odors; most common in medical disorders, especially in the temporal lobe. orientation: State of awareness of oneself and one's surroundings in terms of time, place, and person. overactivity: Abnormality in motor behavior that can manifest itself as psychomotor agitation, hyperactivity (hyperkinesia), tics, sleepwalking, or compulsions. overvalued idea: False or unreasonable belief or idea that is sustained beyond the bounds of reason. It is held with less intensity or duration than a delusion but is usually associated with mental illness. panic: Acute, intense attack of anxiety associated with personality disorganization; the anxiety is overwhelming and accompanied by feelings of impending doom. panphobia: Overwhelming fear of everything. pantomime: Gesticulation; psychodrama without the use of words. paramnesia: Disturbance of memory in which reality and fantasy are confused. It is observed in dreams and in certain types of schizophrenia and organic mental disorders; it includes phenomena such as déjà vu and déjà entendu, which may occur occasionally in normal persons. paranoia: Rare psychiatric syndrome marked by the gradual development of a highly elaborate and complex delusional system, generally involving persecutory or grandiose delusions, with few other signs of personality disorganization or thought disorder. paranoid delusions: Includes persecutory delusions and delusions of reference, control, and grandeur. paranoid ideation: Thinking dominated by suspicious, persecutory, or grandiose content of less than delusional proportions. paraphasia: Abnormal speech in which one word is substituted for another, the irrelevant word generally resembling the required one in morphology, meaning, or

phonetic composition; the inappropriate word may be a legitimate one used incorrectly, such as clover instead of hand, or a bizarre nonsense expression, such as treen instead of train. Paraphasic speech may be seen in organic aphasias and in mental disorders such as schizophrenia. See also metonymy and word approximation. parapraxis: Faulty act, such as a slip of the tongue or the

misplacement of an article. Freud ascribed parapraxes to unconscious motives. paresis: Weakness or partial paralysis of organic origin. paresthesia: Abnormal spontaneous tactile sensation, such as a burning, tingling, or pins-and-needles sensation. perception: Conscious awareness of elements in the environment by the mental processing of sensory stimuli; sometimes used in a broader sense to refer to the mental process by which all kinds of data, intellectual, emotional, and sensory, are meaningfully organized. See also apperception. perseveration: (1) Pathological repetition of the same response to different stimuli, as in a repetition of the same verbal response to different questions. (2) Persistent repetition of specific words or concepts in the process of speaking. Seen in cognitive disorders, schizophrenia, and other mental illness. See also verbigeration. phantom limb: False sensation that an extremity that has been lost is, in fact, present. phobia: Persistent, pathological, unrealistic, intense fear of an object or situation; the phobic person may realize that the fear is irrational but, nonetheless, cannot dispel it. For types of phobias, see the specific term. pica: Craving and eating of nonfood substances, such as paint and clay. polyphagia: Pathological overeating. positive signs: In schizophrenia: hallucinations, delusions, and thought disorder. posturing: Strange, fixed, and bizarre bodily positions held by a patient for an extended time. See also catatonia. poverty of content of speech: Speech that is adequate in amount but conveys little information because of vagueness, emptiness, or stereotyped phrases. poverty of speech: Restriction in the amount of speech used; replies may be monosyllabic. See also laconic speech. preoccupation of thought: Centering of thought content on a particular idea, associated with a strong affective tone, such as a paranoid trend or a suicidal or homicidal preoccupation. pressured speech: Increase in the amount of spontaneous speech; rapid, loud, accelerated speech, as occurs in mania, schizophrenia, and cognitive disorders. primary process thinking: In psychoanalysis, the mental activity related directly to the functions of the id and characteristic of unconscious mental processes; marked by primitive, prelogical thinking and by the tendency to seek immediate discharge and gratification of instinctual demands. Includes thinking that is dereistic, illogical, magical; normally found in dreams, abnormally in psychosis. Compare with secondary process thinking. projection: Unconscious defense mechanism in which persons attribute to another those generally unconscious ideas, thoughts, feelings, and impulses that are in themselves undesirable or unacceptable as a form of protection from anxiety arising from an inner conflict; by externalizing whatever is unacceptable, they deal with it as a situation apart from themselves. prosopagnosia: Inability to recognize familiar faces that is not due to impaired visual acuity or level of consciousness. pseudocyesis: Rare condition in which a nonpregnant patient has the signs and symptoms of pregnancy, such as abdominal distention, breast enlargement, pigmentation, cessation of menses, and morning sickness. pseudodementia: (1) Dementia-like disorder that can be reversed by appropriate treatment and is not caused by organic brain disease. (2) Condition in which patients show exaggerated indifference to their surroundings in the absence of a mental disorder; also occurs in depression and factitious disorders. pseudologia phantastica: Disorder characterized by uncontrollable lying in which patients elaborate extensive fantasies that they freely communicate and act on. psychomotor agitation: Physical and mental overactivity that is usually nonproductive and is associated with a feeling of inner turmoil, as seen in agitated depression. psychosis: Mental disorder in which the thoughts, affective response, ability to recognize reality, and ability to communicate and relate to others are sufficiently impaired to interfere grossly with the capacity to deal with reality; the classical characteristics of psychosis are impaired reality testing, hallucinations, delusions, and illusions. psychotic: (1) Person experiencing psychosis. (2) Denoting or characteristic of psychosis. rationalization: An unconscious defense

mechanism in which irrational or unacceptable behavior, motives, or feelings are logically justified or made consciously tolerable by plausible means. reaction formation: Unconscious defense mechanism in which a person develops a socialized attitude or interest that is the direct antithesis of some infantile wish or impulse that is harbored consciously or unconsciously. One of the earliest and most unstable defense mechanisms, closely related to repression; both are defenses against impulses or urges that are unacceptable to the ego. reality testing: Fundamental ego function that consists of tentative actions that test and objectively evaluate the nature and limits of the environment; includes the ability to differentiate between the external world and the internal world and to accurately judge the relation between the self and the environment. recall: Process of bringing stored memories into consciousness. See also memory. recent memory: Recall of events over the past few days. recent past memory: Recall of events over the past few months. receptive aphasia: Organic loss of ability to comprehend the meaning of words; fluid and spontaneous, but incoherent and nonsensical, speech. See also fluent aphasia and sensory aphasia.

receptive dysphasia: Difficulty in comprehending oral language; the impairment involves comprehension and production of language. regression: Unconscious defense mechanism in which a person undergoes a partial or total return to earlier patterns of adaptation; observed in many psychiatric conditions, particularly schizophrenia. remote memory: Recall of events in the distant past. repression: Freud's term for an unconscious defense mechanism in which unacceptable mental contents are banished or kept out of consciousness; important in normal psychological development and in neurotic and psychotic symptom formation. Freud recognized two kinds of repression: (1) repression proper, in which the repressed material was once in the conscious domain, and (2) primal repression, in which the repressed material was never in the conscious realm. Compare with suppression. restricted affect: Reduction in intensity of feeling tone that is less severe than in blunted affect but clearly reduced. See also constricted affect. retrograde amnesia: Loss of memory for events preceding the onset of the amnesia. Compare with anterograde amnesia. retrospective falsification: Memory becomes unintentionally (unconsciously) distorted by being filtered through a person's present emotional, cognitive, and experiential state. rigidity: In psychiatry, a person's resistance to change, a personality trait. ritual: (1) Formalized activity practiced by a person to reduce anxiety, as in OCD. (2) Ceremonial activity of cultural origin. rumination: Constant preoccupation with thinking about a single idea or theme, as in OCD. satyriasis: Morbid, insatiable sexual need or desire in a man. Compare with nymphomania. scotoma: (1) In psychiatry, a figurative blind spot in a person's psychological awareness. (2) In neurology, a localized visual field defect. secondary process thinking: In psychoanalysis, the form of thinking that is logical, organized, reality oriented, and influenced by the demands of the environment; characterizes the mental activity of the ego. Compare with primary process thinking. seizure: An attack or sudden onset of certain symptoms, such as convulsions, loss of consciousness, and psychic or sensory disturbances; seen in epilepsy and can be substance induced. For types of seizures, see the specific term. sensorium: Hypothetical sensory center in the brain that is involved with clarity of awareness about oneself and one's surroundings, including the ability to perceive and to process ongoing events in light of past experiences, future options, and current circumstances; sometimes used interchangeably with consciousness. sensory aphasia: Organic loss of ability to comprehend the meaning of words; fluid and spontaneous, but incoherent and nonsensical, speech. See also fluent aphasia and receptive aphasia. sensory extinction: Neurological sign operationally defined as failure to report one of

two simultaneously presented sensory stimuli, despite the fact that either stimulus alone is correctly reported. Also called sensory inattention. shame: Failure to live up to self-expectations; often associated with fantasy of how person will be seen by others. See also guilt. short-term memory: Reproduction, recognition, or recall of perceived material within minutes after the initial presentation. Compare with immediate memory and longterm memory. simultanagnosia: Impairment in the perception or integration of visual stimuli appearing simultaneously. somatic delusion: Delusion pertaining to the functioning of one's body. somatic hallucination: Hallucination involving the perception of a physical experience localized within the body. somatopagnosia: Inability to recognize a part of one's body as one's own (also called ignorance of the body and autotopagnosia). somnolence: Pathological sleepiness or drowsiness from which one can be aroused to a normal state of consciousness. spatial agnosia: Inability to recognize spatial relations. speaking in tongues: Expression of a revelatory message through unintelligible words; not considered a disorder of thought if associated with practices of specific Pentecostal religions. See also glossolalia. stereotypy: Continuous mechanical repetition of speech or physical activities; observed in catatonic schizophrenia. stupor: (1) State of decreased reactivity to stimuli and less than full awareness of one's surroundings; as a disturbance of consciousness, it indicates a condition of partial coma or semicoma. (2) In psychiatry, used synonymously with mutism and does not necessarily imply a disturbance of consciousness; in catatonic stupor, patients are ordinarily aware of their surroundings. stuttering: Frequent repetition or prolongation of a sound or syllable, leading to markedly impaired speech fluency. sublimation: Unconscious defense mechanism in which the energy associated with unacceptable impulses or drives is diverted into personally and socially acceptable channels; unlike other defense mechanisms, it offers some minimal gratification of the instinctual drive or impulse. substitution: Unconscious defense mechanism in which a person replaces an unacceptable wish, drive, emotion, or goal with one that is more acceptable. suggestibility: State of uncritical compliance with influence or of uncritical acceptance of an idea, belief, or attitude; commonly observed among persons with hysterical traits. suicidal ideation: Thoughts or act of taking one's own life. suppression: Conscious act of controlling and inhibiting an unacceptable impulse, emotion, or idea; differentiated from repression in that repression is an unconscious process. symbolization: Unconscious defense mechanism in which one idea or object comes to

stand for another because of some common aspect or quality in both; based on similarity and association; the symbols formed protect the person from the anxiety that may be attached to the original idea or object. synesthesia: Condition in which the stimulation of one sensory modality is perceived as sensation in a different modality, as when a sound produces a sensation of color. syntactical aphasia: Aphasia characterized by difficulty in understanding spoken speech, associated with gross disorder of thought and expression. systematized delusion: Group of elaborate delusions related to a single event or theme. tactile hallucination: Hallucination primarily involving the sense of touch. Also called haptic hallucination. tangentiality: Oblique, digressive, or even irrelevant manner of speech in which the central idea is not communicated. tension: Physiological or psychic arousal, uneasiness, or pressure toward action; an unpleasurable alteration in mental or physical state that seeks relief through action. terminal insomnia: Early morning awakening or waking up at least 2 hours before planning to wake up. Compare with initial insomnia and middle insomnia. thought broadcasting: Feeling that one's thoughts are being broadcast or projected into the environment. See also thought withdrawal. thought disorder: Any disturbance of thinking that affects language, communication, or thought content; the hallmark feature of

schizophrenia. Manifestations range from simple blocking and mild circumstantiality to profound loosening of associations, incoherence, and delusions; characterized by a failure to follow semantic and syntactic rules that is inconsistent with the person's education, intelligence, or cultural background. thought insertion: Delusion that thoughts are being implanted in one's mind by other people or forces. thought latency: The period of time between a thought and its verbal expression. Increased in schizophrenia (see blocking) and decreased in mania (see pressured speech). thought withdrawal: Delusion that one's thoughts are being removed from one's mind by other people or forces. See also thought broadcasting. tic disorders: Predominantly psychogenic disorders characterized by involuntary, spasmodic, stereotyped movement of small groups of muscles; seen most predominantly in moments of stress or anxiety, rarely as a result of organic disease. tinnitus: Noises in one or both ears, such as ringing, buzzing, or clicking; an adverse effect of some psychotropic drugs. tonic convulsion: Convulsion in which the muscle contraction is sustained. trailing phenomenon: Perceptual abnormality associated with hallucinogenic drugs in which moving objects are seen as a series of discrete and discontinuous images. trance: Sleeplike state of reduced consciousness and activity. tremor: Rhythmical alteration in movement, which is usually faster than one beat a

second; typically, tremors decrease during periods of relaxation and sleep and increase during periods of anger and increased tension. true insight: Understanding of the objective reality of a situation coupled with the motivational and emotional impetus to master the situation or change behavior. twilight state: Disturbed consciousness with hallucinations. twirling: Sign present in autistic children who continually rotate in the direction in which their head is turned. unconscious: (1) One of three divisions of Freud's topographic theory of the mind (the others being the conscious and the preconscious) in which the psychic material is not readily accessible to conscious awareness by ordinary means; its existence may be manifest in symptom formation, in dreams, or under the influence of drugs. (2) In popular (but more ambiguous) usage, any mental material not in the immediate field of awareness. (3) Denoting a state of unawareness, with lack of response to external stimuli, as in a coma. undoing: Unconscious primitive defense mechanism, repetitive in nature, by which a person symbolically acts out in reverse something unacceptable that has already been done or against which the ego must defend itself; a form of magical expiatory action, commonly observed in OCD. unio mystica: Feeling of mystic unity with an infinite power. vegetative signs: In depression, denoting characteristic symptoms such as sleep disturbance (especially early morning awakening), decreased appetite, constipation, weight loss, and loss of sexual response. verbigeration: Meaningless and stereotyped repetition of words or phrases, as seen in schizophrenia. Also called cataphasia. See also perseveration. vertigo: Sensation that one or the world around one is spinning or revolving; a hallmark of vestibular dysfunction, not to be confused with dizziness. visual agnosia: Inability to recognize objects or persons. visual amnesia: See neurological amnesia. visual hallucination: Hallucination primarily involving the sense of sight. waxy flexibility: Condition in which a person maintains the body position into which they are placed with slight resistance to movement giving it a waxy feel. See also cerea flexibilitis. word approximation: Use of conventional words in an unconventional or inappropriate way (metonymy or of new words that are developed by conventional rules of word formation) (e.g., hand shoes for gloves and time measure for clock); distinguished from a neologism, which is a new word whose derivation cannot be understood. See also paraphasia. word salad: Incoherent, essentially incomprehensible, mixture of words and phrases commonly seen in far-advanced cases of schizophrenia. See also incoherence.

xenophobia: Abnormal fear of strangers. zoophobia: Abnormal fear of animals.

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