

Glossary of Key Terms

Anosognosia: A neurological condition in which individuals lack insight into their psychiatric condition due to structural damage in the frontal lobe of the brain.

Command Voices: A type of auditory hallucination that orders a person to act in specific ways ranging in severity from nondangerous to life-threatening.

Delusion: A strongly held or fixed false belief that conflicts with reality.

Types of Delusion

Persecutory: Unfounded and firm beliefs that one is being targeted, spied on, or harmed by others. They are extreme, fixed forms of paranoia often found in schizophrenia.

Referential: This is when a person believes that they can pick up on other people's thoughts or that another person's actions are directed against them. They may also believe that they are receiving special messages from the TV or radio.

Grandiose: These are firm and false beliefs that one holds superior worth, power, knowledge, identity, or a special mission.

Erotomaniac: An unshakable belief that another person, often someone of higher status, a celebrity, or an acquaintance, is deeply in love with them. It is a symptom typically characterized by stalking, relentless attempts to contact another person, and understanding commonplace events as secret messages of love.

Nihilistic: False, fixed beliefs that oneself, parts of the body, others, or the world do not exist, are decaying, or have been destroyed. These rare, severe delusions often occur in psychotic depression or dementia, with patients sometimes believing they are already dead (Cotard's syndrome)

Somatic: fixed, false, and irrational beliefs that one has a physical defect, illness, or bodily alteration, despite medical evidence to the contrary. These delusions often involve intense preoccupation with bodily functions, such as believing one is infested with parasites, emitting a foul odor, or that an organ is rotting

Bizarre: Firmly held, false beliefs that are clearly impossible, illogical, and unrelated to everyday life experiences.

Hallucination: A sensory experience such as seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, or feeling things

that appear real but are created by the mind without an external stimulus.

Types of Hallucination:

Auditory: Perception of sounds, most commonly voices, without an external stimulus, often linked to mental health conditions like schizophrenia.

Visual: Vivid, involuntary perceptions of objects, patterns, or scenes that are not actually present, often signaling underlying neurological, ocular, or psychiatric conditions.

Tactile: False sensory perceptions of physical contact or movement on or inside the body, such as insects crawling on the skin.

Gustatory: Unreal, tenacious sensations of taste and smell, often metallic, bitter, or unpleasant, occurring without an external stimulus.