The Spectrum of Psychotic Disorders

The spectrum of psychotic disorders encompasses as many as 25 different etiologies, ranging from the primary psychoses through those secondary to medical conditions, drugs and medications, and sensory impairments. This book provides a one-stop, comprehensive review of these disorders, and gives quick comparisons for diagnostic decision-making to help with difficult differential diagnoses. Every chapter is uniformly structured to show comparisons between each disorder of presentation, course, and underlying neuropathology. Evidence for each etiology is also rated, indicating the confidence level the reader can place in the current findings. The international team of authors also examines data supporting a unitary neurobiological model of psychosis and the hypothesis that psychosis is a neurobiological syndrome similar to aphasia or apraxia.

This book represents a paradigm shift in understanding, classifying, and diagnosing these disorders, providing directions for future research and treatment. It will be of great interest to psychiatrists and neuroscientists alike.

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The Spectrum of Psychotic Disorders

Neurobiology, Etiology, and Pathogenesis

Edited by

Daryl Fujii and Iqbal Ahmed
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Preface

Psychotic disorders of different etiologies have interested both clinicians and researchers, but for different reasons. People with psychosis have been some of the most challenging for clinicians to treat due to the severity and chronicity of symptoms. One potential problematic aspect of treatment is differential diagnosis as psychosis can result from numerous etiologies and many patients have more than one risk factor. A review of the presentation, course and progression, and optimal treatment strategies would certainly be useful for clinicians in making these determinations.

For researchers and theoreticians, secondary or “organic” psychotic disorders can provide clues to underlying neurobiological mechanisms of schizophrenia or psychosis in general. Unfortunately, thus far, this potential avenue of research has not been adequately explored. One problem is that the literature on the “so called” secondary psychotic disorders is not readily available for study or review. There are many different etiologies, thus amassing this disparate literature would take a concerted effort. In addition, much of the information on “organic psychosis,” particularly for the obscure etiologies, is provided in case studies or case series, many in difficult-to-find journals. We believe these problems in access to information have prevented researchers from mining this rich resource.

The purpose of this book is to address the needs of both clinician and researcher by providing comprehensive reviews of psychotic disorders of different etiologies in one handy resource. For clinicians faced with difficult and fascinating differential diagnoses, this compendium allows quick comparisons useful for diagnostic decision-making. For researchers and theoreticians interested in the neurobiology of schizophrenia and psychosis, we compare and contrast the current data in searching for clues on the neurobiological essence of psychosis. Specifically, we examine the hypothesis that psychosis is a neurobiological syndrome similar to aphasia or apraxia.
There are two unique organizational features of our book. First, each chapter is uniformly structured to aid in comparison of the presentation, course, and underlying neuropathology between each disorder. Second, authors have rated the level of evidence for each etiology indicating the confidence level the reader can place in the current findings.

We hope you find this book useful in your practice and research.
Acknowledgements

There are many people we would like to acknowledge in the making of this book. First, we would like to thank all the contributing authors for their efforts, expertise, and taking time out of their busy schedules to collaborate with us.

Second, we would like to thank the researchers who have trodden the path of organic psychosis and inspired us to continue the exploration. These people include: Kenneth Davison and Christopher Bagley, pioneers in compiling information on secondary psychotic disorders; Alwyn Lishman for piquing everyone’s interest in organic psychiatry; and Jeffrey Cummings for his seminal ideas in the neuropsychiatry of psychosis. With this book, we hope to carry the torch in this area of study.

Third, we would like to thank the individuals who have facilitated our research over the years: librarian Lisa Anne Matsumoto who special ordered many of our journal articles; and administrative assistant Sharon Lai for her multiple contributions. We would also like to thank Erin Sakai and Cale Palmer for their assistance in compiling and rating the data in the chapters.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank our families, without whose love, support, and patience our work could not have been accomplished.

Daryl would like to thank his beautiful wife Sam, two eggies Dylan and Cody, loving parents Earl and Judy Fujii, big brother Jay and his family, Naomi and Jarin, grandparents Kenneth Ito and the late Mildred Ito and Shizuko Fujii.

Ike would like to thank numerous colleagues, and students who have helped shape his ideas over the years, his co-author Daryl for his years of collaboration and for the active exchange of ideas which led to the writing of the book, and for being the force behind getting these ideas out into the public domain. Finally, he would like to thank his lovely wife Lisa, for her love and enduring support, and his two daughters Yasmin and Jihan for their love and the joy they have provided.