



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DIAGNOSIS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

* To be diagnosed with schizophrenia, an individual must experience more than one psychotic symptom during a one month period and continuous signs of disturbance for at least 6 months.¹

SYMPTOMS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

- + Positive symptoms (something ADDED - hallucinations, delusions [false beliefs], disorganized thoughts and speech)
- Negative symptoms (something MISSING - apathy [lack of feeling emotion, interest, and concern], reduced socializing, restricted facial expression, change in rate of speech)
- ~ Cognitive symptoms (something CHANGED - difficulties with attention, concentration, memory, planning and organization)

CRITICAL PERIOD

- During the first 2 to 5 years of your illness is when the biological, psychological, and psychosocial contributors to psychotic illnesses are most amenable to change²
- A longer duration of untreated psychosis (DUP) may be neurotoxic³ and is a strong predictor of poor clinical and social outcomes^{4,5}
- Early functional and clinical status at 2 years is a very strong predictor of outcome at 15 years⁶, strongly suggesting that there may be a clinical period for effective treatment in the early years following onset⁷

REFERENCES

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