**Schizophrenia**

**Schizophrenia** is a severe psychotic disorder characterized by disorganized and delusional thinking, disturbed perceptions, and inappropriate emotions.

**Symptoms of schizophrenia**

1. Incoherent thinking
	* **Neologisms**- words that only make sense to the one saying them
	* **Word salad**- chaotic thoughts that do not make any sense or have any sentence structure

1. **Delusions** are false beliefs that people experience with schizophrenia
	* Delusions of grandeur- one of the most common- is the false belief of being more important than actuality.
	* Delusions of persecution is the false belief that a people are out to get them
	* Delusions of sin- is the false belief that a person is responsible for some misfortune or tragedy
	* Delusions of influence- the false belief that a person is being controlled by an outside force
2. **Hallucinations** are false perceptions- perceptions are interpretations of sensory stimuli (**Auditory hallucinations** are the most common Disturbance of affect
3. **Disturbance of affect**
4. **Bizarre Behavior**

**Classification of Symptoms**

* + **Positive symptoms** include the additions of delusions, hallucinations, and disorganized thinking
	+ **Negative symptoms** include the absence or the missing of pleasure, lack of speech, and flat affect- no emotion

**Types of Schizophrenia**

**1) Paranoid schizophrenia** is characterized by delusions of persecution- everyone out to get him or her, and auditory hallucinations

1. **Catatonic schizophrenia** is characterized by waxy flexibility- no movement, and a catatonic stupor- no emotion or flat effect
2. **Disorganized schizophrenia** is characterized by bizarre behavior, delusions, and hallucinations
3. **Undifferentiated schizophrenia** is not consistent with any particular type of schizophrenia
4. **Residual schizophrenia** describes people who have experienced the symptoms of schizophrenia but presently are symptom free.

**Causes of schizophrenia**

*Heredity*- twin studies have revealed that identical twins, where one twin has schizophrenia have the highest chance of developing this schizophrenia, followed by fraternal twins, and then if a biological parent has or had the disease.

*Brain*- schizophrenics have large fluid-filled spaces called ventricles, a slower functioning frontal lobe, and a smaller thalamus

*Neurotransmission*- schizophrenics have increased number of dopamine receptor sites

*Prenatal viruses*- viral infection during pregnancy