



SA Federation for
Mental Health

SCHIZOPHRENIA SPECTRUM AND OTHER PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS

SUBSTANCE/MEDICATION-INDUCED PSYCHOTIC DISORDER

What it is:

Substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder is defined as a psychotic episode in which an individual experiences hallucinations and/or delusions, as a direct result of a substance/medication that they have taken. Psychotic symptoms may also appear as a result of withdrawal from substances/medications. Substance/medication induced psychosis typically manifests during or soon after exposure to the substance.

The symptoms usually being to subside once the substance/medication begins to leave the individual's system. However, with certain drugs this can take days or even weeks. When considering a diagnosis of substance/medication induced psychosis, pre-existing mental health conditions should also be taken into account.

Common Symptoms:

1. Delusions
2. Hallucinations
3. Symptoms 1 and or 2 started during or soon after substance intoxication or withdrawal
4. The individual does not realise that the delusions/hallucinations are caused by the substance taken

Causes:

Substance/medication-induced psychotic disorder is a psychotic episode caused directly by a specific substance that is or was being taken. Substances that have been known to cause these psychotic episodes include:

1. Alcohol
2. Cannabis
3. Phencyclidine
4. Inhalants
5. Amphetamines

6. Cocaine
7. Sedatives
8. Hallucinogens



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Remember to always consult a mental health or medical practitioner regarding any questions you may have about a mental health diagnosis and treatment options.

This factsheet is based on information obtained from the DSM-5:
American Psychiatric Association, 2013. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition.*