

Psychopathology Glossary

Acute – having a sudden onset, sharp rise, and short course (as opposed to chronic)

Adrenoleukodystrophy – any of several closely related inheritable disorders that involve the metabolism of certain fats and affect the adrenal glands, nervous system, and testes

Agnosia – failure to recognize or identify objects, despite intact sensory function

Akathisia – a state of motor restlessness, sometimes produced by neuroleptic medication, that ranges from a feeling of inner distress to an inability to sit still

Aldehyde dehydrogenase – enzyme that carries out a specific step in alcohol metabolism, that is, the metabolism of acetaldehyde to acetate. This enzyme may be blocked by the drug disulfiram (Antabuse).

Aliphatic – of, relating to, or being an organic compound having an open-chain structure

Amenorrhea – absence of the menses

Amnesic disorder – severe memory impairment without other significant impairments of cognitive functioning

Amyloid angiopathy – a neurological condition in which amyloid protein is deposited onto the walls of the arteries of the brain, increasing the risk of bleeding into the brain (hemorrhagic stroke)

Anhedonia – a psychological condition characterized by inability to experience pleasure in acts which normally produce it

Anomaly – a deviation from the common rule, type, arrangement, or form; an incongruity or inconsistency

Anxiolytics – antianxiety medications; tranquilizers. Benzodiazepines are anxiolytic drugs.

Aphasia – deterioration of language function

Apraxia – impaired ability to execute motor activities, despite intact motor abilities, sensory function, and comprehension

Arrhythmia – an alteration in rhythm of the heartbeat either in time or force

Asterixis – a flapping movement of the hyperextended hands

Ataxia – loss of the ability to coordinate muscular movement.

Bradycardia – a slow heartbeat rate, usually less than 60 beats per minute

Bradykinesia – slowness in the execution of movement, as opposed to slowness in initiation of movement. This is a feature of Parkinson's disease and other disorders involving the basal ganglia. ("brady" means "slow," "kinesia" means "movement.")

Carbohydrate deficient transferrin (CDT) – an elevation of 20 units or higher is useful in identifying individuals who consume eight or more alcoholic drinks daily

Choreoathetosis – uncontrolled or slow movement due to muscle tone problems, usually in large muscle groups, that leads to slow involuntary contractions of the head, limbs, trunk, or neck

Chronic – marked by long duration or frequent recurrence (as opposed to acute)

Comorbidity - concomitant but unrelated pathological or disease process

Concatenation – a series of interconnected or interdependent things or events

Confabulation – the replacement of a gap in a person's memory by a falsification that he or she believes to be true

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease – one of the subacute spongiform encephalopathies, a group of central nervous system diseases caused by transmissible agents known as "slow viruses," or prions. Typical manifestation includes dementia, involuntary movements, and periodic EEG activity.

Cryptococcosis – a disease caused by the fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*, chiefly found in soil contaminated by pigeon droppings, and characterized by lesions, especially of the nervous system and lungs

Cyanosis – a bluish or purplish discoloration (as of skin) due to deficient oxygenation of blood. (adjectival form: cyanotic)

Cytomegalovirus infection – a condition caused by a member of the herpes virus family; symptoms include fever, sore throat, fatigue, loss of appetite, and muscular aches

Decubitus ulcers – bedsores

Delirium – a disturbance of consciousness and a change in cognition that develops over a short period of time

Delirium tremens – a withdrawal syndrome occurring in persons who have developed physiological dependence on alcohol, characterized by tremor, visual hallucinations, and autonomic instability

Delusion – a fixed false belief.

Non-psychotic delusion – a fixed false belief that is plausible

Psychotic delusion – a fixed false belief that is not plausible

Dementia – multiple cognitive deficits that include impairment in memory; may be a progressive, static, or remitting condition, depending upon underlying pathology and availability and application of effective treatment

De novo – over again; anew

Depersonalization – a state in which one no longer perceives the reality of one's self or one's environment.

Derealization – an alteration in perception leading to the feeling that the reality of the world has been changed or lost

Diplopia – a disorder of vision in which two images of a single object are seen because of unequal action of the eye muscles; double vision

Disorder – a disturbance in physical or mental health or functions; malady or dysfunction

Discursive – proceeding coherently from topic to topic; marked by analytical reasoning

Diuresis – increased discharge of urine

Dysarthria – impaired ability to articulate

Dysgraphia – impaired ability to write

Dyskinesia – an impairment in the ability to control movements, characterized by spasmodic or repetitive motions or lack of coordination.

Dysnomia – impaired ability to name objects

Dysphoria – an emotional state characterized by anxiety, depression, or unease

Dyspnea – difficult or labored respiration

Dysthymia – a mood disorder characterized by chronic mild depression

Dystonia – abnormal tonicity of muscle, characterized by prolonged, repetitive muscle contractions that may cause twisting or jerking movements of the body or a body part

Echolalia – meaningless repetition of words and/or phrases; speech that involves only echoing what is heard

Ego-dystonic – of or pertaining to aspects of one's behavior or attitudes viewed as inconsistent with one's fundamental beliefs and personality (out of sync with the individual's self-concept)

Ego-syntonic – of or pertaining to aspects of one's behavior or attitudes viewed as acceptable and consistent with one's fundamental personality and beliefs (in sync with the individual's self-concept)

Epistemology – a branch of philosophy that investigates the origin, nature, methods, and limits of human knowledge

Ergot – the black or dark purple sclerotium of fungi that occurs as a club-shaped body replacing the seed of a grass, such as rye; a disease of rye and other cereals caused by an ergot fungus

Etiology – the cause or origin of a disease

Euthymia – a state of tranquility or quietness of mind

Exudate – a substance that has oozed forth

Facile – easily, without difficulty; easy to understand or make use of

Febrile – pertaining to or marked by fever; feverish

Forensic – pertaining to, connected with, or used in courts of law or public discussion and debate

Formication – a tactile hallucination involving the belief that something is crawling on the body or under the skin; an abnormal sensation as of insects running over or into the skin, associated with cocaine intoxication or disease of the spinal cord and peripheral nerves

Gamma-glutamyltransferase (GGT) – an elevation of GGT > 30 units is a sensitive indicator of heavy drinking

Hallucination – a perception that exists without existing sensory input

Hematemesis – vomiting blood

Hepatic encephalopathy – a condition that usually occurs secondary to advanced liver disease and is marked by a disturbance of mental functioning. It is the result of biochemical abnormalities associated with liver failure, including disturbed ammonia metabolism, and is considered the most powerful clinical indicator of the severity of liver disease. Symptoms include a disturbance of consciousness that may progress to deep coma, psychiatric changes of varying degree, flapping tremor, and fetor hepaticus (breath odor associated with hepatic disease).

Hermeneutics – art or science of interpretation, holistic views

Herpes simplex encephalitis – common form of acute encephalitis caused by herpes simplex 1; usually affects the temporal and frontal lobes

Huntington's disease – an inherited progressive degenerative disease of cognition, emotion, and movement, transmitted by a single autosomal dominant gene on the short arm of chromosome 4.

Hyperpyrexia – a high or excessive degree of fever

Hyperthyroidism – a condition resulting from overactivity of the thyroid gland, characterized by increased metabolism and exophthalmos, which is protrusion of the eyeball from the orbit

Hypertonia – increased rigidity, tension, and spasticity of the muscles

Hypertrophy – enlargement of a part or organ produced by excessive nutrition; excessive growth or development; the opposite of atrophy

Hypnogogic– of, relating to, or associated with the drowsiness preceding sleep

Hypnopompic –associated with the semiconsciousness preceding waking

Hypoalbuminemia – an abnormally small quantity of albumin in the blood. Albumin is produced in the liver, is the most abundant blood plasma protein, and is important in regulating blood volume by maintaining the osmotic pressure of the blood compartment.

Hypoglycemia – an abnormally low level of glucose in the blood

Hypothyroidism – the condition produced by a deficiency of thyroid secretion, resulting in goiter, myxedema, and in children, cretinism.

Goiter is an enlargement of the thyroid gland on the front and sides of the neck.

Myxedema is a condition characterized by thickening of the skin, blunting of the senses and intellect, and labored speech.

Cretinism is a congenital disease characterized by physical deformity, dwarfism, and mental retardation.

Hypoxia – a deficiency of oxygen reaching the tissues of the body

Ictal (and postictal) – of or relating to a seizure or convulsion

Idiographic – pertaining to or involving the study or explication (explanation, interpretation) of individual cases or events (as opposed to nomothetic)

Idiopathic – arising spontaneously or from an obscure or unknown cause

Idiosyncratic – due to individual disposition or susceptibility

Ipsative – designating or involving a measurement or scale calculated relative to a person's own performance or responses, rather than those of others

Ischemia – deficient supply of blood to a body part, such as the heart or brain, that is due to obstruction of the inflow of arterial blood (as by the narrowing of arteries by spasm or disease)

Kufs' disease – one of three main types of neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis, which is a rare, inherited neurodegenerative disorder that can cause blindness, mental retardation, and early death.

Labile – constantly undergoing or likely to undergo change; unstable (from the Middle English *labil*, *forgetful*, *wandering*; from Late Latin *lābilis*, *apt to slip*). The noun form is *lability*.

Lachrimation – the secretion of tears; crying. Also spelled *lacrimation*.

Lanugo – a fine downy body hair sometimes found on the trunks of individuals who suffer from *Anorexia Nervosa*

Leukopenia – a condition in which the number of white blood cells circulating in the blood is abnormally low and which is most commonly due to a decreased production of new cells in conjunction with various infectious diseases, as a reaction to various drugs or other chemicals, or in response to irradiation. This condition is common in *Anorexia Nervosa*.

Lewy body – an eosinophilic inclusion body found in the cytoplasm of neurons of the cortex and the brain stem in *Parkinson's disease* and some forms of *dementia*

Macropsia – a defect of vision in which objects appear to be larger than their actual size

Menarche – the first menstrual period; the age at which this occurs

Mental disorder (DSM-IV) – a clinically significant behavioral or psychological syndrome or pattern in an individual that creates impairment or distress in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning that creates a risk for death, disability, or loss of important freedoms

Metabolic acidosis - a condition in which the acid content of body fluids increases in relation to the alkali content

Metabolic alkalosis – a condition in which the alkali content of body fluids increases in relation to the acid content

Metachromatic leukodystrophy – a genetic disorder that affects nerves, muscles, and other organs and slowly worsens over time. It is inherited as an autosomal recessive disorder, meaning that an individual must inherit a copy of the defective gene from both parents. The disorder is usually caused by the lack of the enzyme *arylsulfatase A*, resulting in the accumulation of *sulfatides* in the nervous system, kidneys, gallbladder, and other organs. This accumulation damages nerves and organs, primarily by damaging the *myelin sheaths* that surround nerve cells.

Micropsia – a defect of vision in which objects appear to be smaller than their actual size

Monomania – an inordinate or obsessive zeal for or interest in a single thing, idea, subject, or the like; a psychosis characterized by thoughts confined to one idea or group of ideas

Morbid – affected by, caused by, causing, or characteristic of disease

Morbidity – the incidence of a disease; the rate of sickness, as in a specified community or group

Myocardial infarction – infarction (obstruction, or the condition of being stuffed up) of part of the myocardium (the heart muscle), usually due to occlusion of a coronary artery; a heart attack

Myoclonus – an abrupt spasm or twitch of a muscle or group of muscles, occurring in some neurological diseases

Neoplasm – a new, often uncontrolled growth of abnormal tissue; tumor

Neurofibrillary tangles – twisted fragments of protein with nerve cells that clog up the cell. Neurofibrillary tangles are present in the brain cells of individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's Disease.

Neuropathy – an abnormal and usually degenerative state of the nervous system or nerves

Neurosyphilis – syphilis of the nervous system

Nomenclature – a set or system of names or terms, as those used in a particular science or art, by an individual or community, etc

Nomothetic – pertaining to or involving the study or formulation of general or universal laws (as opposed to idiographic)

Nosology – the systematic classification of diseases

Nystagmus – a congenital or acquired persistent, rapid, involuntary, and oscillatory movement of the eyeball, usually from side to side

Olivopontocerebellar degeneration – a progressive disease that causes certain brain areas to shrink. The primary symptom is ataxia that slowly worsens; problems may also appear with balance, slurring of speech, and difficulty walking.

Organicity – the quality of having been caused by neurochemical, neuroendocrinologic, structural, or other physical impairment or change

Overarching – encompassing or overshadowing everything

Overweening –exaggerated, excessive, or arrogant

Palilalia – repeating sounds over and over

Paresthesia – a skin sensation, such as burning, prickling, itching, or tingling, with no apparent physical cause

Pathology - any deviation from a healthy, normal, or efficient condition; The anatomic or functional manifestations of a disease

Personality disorder – an enduring pattern of inner experience and behavior that deviates markedly from the expectations of the individual's culture and manifests in two or more of

the areas of cognition, affectivity, interpersonal functioning, and/or impulse control; is inflexible and pervasive across a broad range of personal and social situations; has an onset in adolescence or early adulthood; is stable over time; and leads to clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning

Petechia – a small, flat, red or purple spot caused by bleeding into the skin or other organ; the more common usage is of the plural form *petechiae*.

Phencyclidine – an anesthetic drug, C₁₇H₂₅N, used as an animal tranquilizer; also widely used in several forms as an illicit hallucinogen; also called angel dust or PCP

Phenomenology – the division of any science which is concerned with the description and classification of its phenomena, rather than causal or theoretical explanation

Pica – a tendency or craving to eat substances other than normal foodstuffs, especially non-nutritive substances, seen chiefly during childhood or pregnancy or as a symptom of dietary deficiency. (In typography, pica is used to describe standard 12-point sized type.)

Pick's disease – a degenerative disease of the brain that particularly affects the frontal and temporal lobes, characterized early in course by deterioration of social skills, emotional blunting, behavioral disinhibition, and prominent language abnormalities, and most commonly manifested in individuals between ages 50 and 60

Piloerection – the erection or bristling of hairs or fur; gooseflesh

Premorbid – occurring or existing before the occurrence of physical disease or emotional illness

Prevalence – the total number of cases of a disease in a given population at a specific time

Prion diseases – A prion is an abnormally folded, protease-resistant protein which forms aggregates in the brain in the spongiform encephalopathies and certain other neurodegenerative disorders. It can be transmitted between individuals and is thought to propagate itself by inducing the abnormal conformation in a normal form of the protein. Creutzfeldt-Jakob is one of the prion diseases.

Prodromal – a premonitory (serving to warn beforehand) symptom

Psychopathology – the study of the origin, development, and manifestations of mental or behavioral disorders; the science or study of mental disorders; the conditions and processes of a mental disorder; a pathological deviation from normal or efficient behavior

Psychopathy – personality disorder characterized by persistent impulsive, irresponsible, antisocial, and often violent or aggressive behavior, often accompanied by an inability to form normal relationships with others

Psychosis – a mental disorder characterized by symptoms, such as delusions or hallucinations, that indicate impaired contact with reality

Psychotic – characterized by or afflicted with psychosis

Rhonchus – a whistling or snoring sound heard on auscultation of the chest when the air channels are partly obstructed. (plural: rhonci). (auscultation: the act of listening to sounds arising within organs as an aid to diagnosis and treatment)

Saccadic eye movements – discontinuous or sporadic or jerky movements of the eye

Sanction – an interesting word that can mean opposite things. “To sanction” something can mean both “to approve” it and “to penalize” it. A sanction, as a noun, can be the approval or authority for something or the provision in law of a penalty for something, or the actual penalty itself. The word has Latin origins with an original meaning of “to prescribe by law.”

Senile plaques – areas where products of dying nerve cells have accumulated around protein. Senile plaques are seen in the brain tissue of individuals who suffer from Alzheimer’s Disease.

Sensorium – ability of the brain to receive and interpret sensory stimuli; the state of consciousness judged in terms of this ability

Septicemia – the invasion and persistence of pathogenic bacteria in the bloodstream, also spelled *septicaemia*

Sequelae – a secondary consequence or result

Sociopathy – personality disorder that manifests chiefly in antisocial attitudes and behavior

Somatization – the occurrence of bodily symptoms in consequence of or as an expression of mental disorder

SPECT – single photo emission computed tomography

Supranuclear palsy – a degenerative disease involving the death of selected neurons or nerve endings in the brainstem and basal ganglia; symptoms, which seldom appear before the age of 50, include cramped handwriting, dislike of bright lights, fear of falling, tunnel vision, problems with balance and vision, slurred speech, inability to swallow, unstable and jerky physical movement

Sympathomimetic – producing physiological effects resembling those caused by the activity or stimulation of the sympathetic nervous system

Syncope – loss of consciousness resulting from insufficient blood flow to the brain

Syndrome – a group of symptoms that together are characteristic of a specific disorder, disease, or the like

Synesthesia – a concomitant sensation, especially a subjective sensation or image of a sense (as of color) other than the one (as of sound) being stimulated

Systemic lupus erythematosus – a chronic, inflammatory autoimmune disorder that may affect the skin, joints, kidneys, and other organs. The disorder affects nine times as many women as men and most often appears in people between the ages of 10 and 50. Sometimes the condition is caused by a hypersensitivity reaction to medication, with symptoms tending to occur after the drug has been taken for at least 3 to 6 months. Medications that are known to have caused this condition include chlorpromazine, hydralazine, isoniazid, methyldopa, penicillamine, procainamide, quinidine, and sulfasalazine.

Tachycardia – a rapid heart rate, especially one above 100 beats per minute in an adult

Tardive dyskinesia – a neurological disorder that is usually a late-developing side effect of long-term treatment with antipsychotic drugs and is characterized by involuntary movements of the face and jaws

Temporal arteritis – inflammation of temporal arteries, characterized by headaches and sometimes visual impairment

Temporal lobe epilepsy – epilepsy characterized by partial rather than generalized seizures that typically originate in the temporal lobe and are marked by impairment of consciousness, automatisms, unusual changes in behavior, and hallucinations (as of odors).

Thrombocytopenia – the condition of having a reduced number of platelets in the blood

Toxoplasmosis – infection with the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, transmitted to humans by consumption of insufficiently cooked meat containing the parasite or by contact with contaminated cats or their feces; the illness produced is usually mild, but in pregnant women may damage the fetus

Ubiquitous - existing or being everywhere, especially at the same time; omnipresent

Valsalva maneuver – the process of making a forceful attempt at expiration while holding the nostrils closed and keeping the mouth shut for the purpose of testing the patency of the Eustachian tubes or of adjusting middle ear pressure

Vasculitis – inflammation of a vessel of the body

Veridical – truthful; veracious; corresponding to facts; not illusory; real; actual; genuine

Voluble – characterized by ready or rapid speech

Zeitgeist – the spirit or genius which marks the thought or feeling of a period or age; the spirit of the times

Glossaries contained within DSM-IV-TR

Glossary of Specific Defense Mechanisms and Coping Styles: pp. 811-813

Glossary of Technical Terms: pp. 819-828

Glossary of Culture-Bound Syndromes: pp. 898-903