

## The Spectrum of Psychotic Disorders

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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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Edited by Daryl Fujii and Iqbal Ahmed  
Frontmatter  
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## 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.

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