



EPA COURSE TITLE	Delusions – Diagnosis and Treatment
COURSE DIRECTOR	Michael Musalek, Austria
COURSE CO-DIRECTORS	N/A
COURSE LEVEL	Basic
EDUCATIONAL INTENTIONS/ COURSE OUTCOMES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. definition and diagnosis 2. pathogenesis 3. position in contemporary classification 4. integrative treatment of delusions
COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>Delusions are caused by complex interactions of various mental, physical and social factors. The choice of a particular delusional theme is determined by gender, age, civil status, social isolation, and special experiences ("key experiences") whereas the incorrigible conviction is based on cognitive disorders and/or emotional derailments and reinforced by social factors. But delusions cannot be longer reduced to psychopathological manifestations once established and therefore persisting. The delusional conviction is a dynamic process which only persists if disorder maintaining factors become active.</p> <p>These disorder maintaining factors are not necessarily corresponding with the delusion's predisposing and triggering factors. Assumptions concerning nosology and classification of delusions have ranged from an independent nosological entity to the attribution to a certain mental disorder, to multicategorical classification models. Previous polydiagnostic studies indicate that delusional disorders are neither a nosological entity nor due to one particular disorder (e.g. schizophrenia) but represent nosologically non-specific syndromes which may occur superimposed on all mental disorders.</p> <p>As delusions represent nosological non-specific syndromes with a multifactorial pathogenesis modern integrative treatment approaches (including psychopharmacological, psychotherapeutic and socio-therapeutic methods) have to be based on a multidimensional differential diagnosis of all the predisposing, triggering, and disorder maintaining factors. In this context the disorder maintaining factors provide the basis for effective, pathogenesis oriented treatment of the actual symptomatology, whereas the predisposing and triggering factors provide information for planning prophylactic long-term treatment.</p>
PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE	Basic knowledge in clinical and theoretical psychopathology (see also target audience)
COURSE METHODS AND MATERIAL	Small group discussions; case studies; debate; slides; handouts; extended group discussions
TARGET AUDIENCE	Psychiatrists, psychopathologists, psychotherapists, trainees in psychiatry
RECOMMENDED READINGS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. S. Nassir, 2012: The Rise and Fall of the Biopsychosocial Model, John Hopkins University Press 2. Julian A. Davies, 2009: A Philosophy of the Human Being, University Press of America 3. Lennart Nordenfelt, 2007: Rationality and Compulsion, Oxford University Press 4. Michael R. Trimble, 2007: The Soul in the Brain, John Hopkins University Press 5. Michael Musalek. 2003: Meaning and Causes of Delusions. In: B.Fulford, J.Sadler (eds.) Nature and Narrative. pp. 155-169 Oxford University Press
LANGUAGE(S)	English



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