# Article information:

Psychotic Disorders | NEJM  
<https://www-nejm-org.libproxy.ucl.ac.uk/doi/10.1056/NEJMra1801490>

# Article summary:

1. Psychosis is a term used to describe a disruption in the ability to distinguish between internal experiences and external reality, and is characterized by symptoms such as delusions, hallucinations, disorganized thoughts, and abnormal motor behavior.

2. Psychotic disorders can be categorized into idiopathic psychoses, psychoses due to medical conditions or neurodegenerative disorders, and toxic psychoses due to substances of abuse or toxins.

3. The pathophysiology of psychotic disorders involves alterations in neurotransmission in the dopamine and glutamate pathways of the hippocampus, midbrain, corpus striatum, and prefrontal cortex, which can be caused by genetic factors or environmental factors such as drug abuse.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article provides a comprehensive overview of psychotic disorders, including their definition, diagnostic criteria, natural history, causes and pathophysiological features. However, there are some potential biases and limitations in the article that should be considered.

One potential bias is the focus on the DSM-5 diagnostic manual as the primary source of information about psychotic disorders. While this is a widely used and accepted classification system, it has been criticized for its reliance on symptom-based criteria rather than underlying biological mechanisms. This may lead to overdiagnosis or misdiagnosis of certain conditions and overlook important subtypes or variations within disorders.

Another limitation is the lack of discussion about cultural or social factors that may influence the presentation and treatment of psychotic disorders. For example, some cultures may view certain types of hallucinations or delusions as spiritual experiences rather than symptoms of illness. Additionally, access to mental health services and stigma surrounding mental illness can vary greatly across different communities.

The article also presents some unsupported claims or incomplete evidence regarding genetic factors in psychosis. While there is strong evidence for a hereditary component to psychotic disorders, the specific genes involved and their modes of inheritance are still being studied. The common disease-common allele hypothesis and common disease-rare allele hypothesis are presented as two general hypotheses without acknowledging other possible explanations or complexities in genetic research.

Furthermore, while the article notes some potential risks associated with psychotic disorders such as suicide attempts and substance abuse, it does not fully explore the impact on quality of life or social functioning for individuals with these conditions. It also does not address potential side effects or limitations of current treatments for psychotic disorders.

Overall, while the article provides a useful overview of psychotic disorders from a clinical perspective, it could benefit from more nuanced consideration of biological, cultural, and social factors that contribute to these conditions. It could also provide more balanced reporting by acknowledging areas where research is still ongoing or where multiple perspectives exist.

# Topics for further research:

* Cultural factors influencing presentation and treatment of psychotic disorders
* Biological mechanisms underlying psychotic disorders
* Genetic research on psychotic disorders beyond common disease hypotheses
* Impact of psychotic disorders on quality of life and social functioning
* Side effects and limitations of current treatments for psychotic disorders
* Stigma surrounding mental illness and access to mental health services

# Report location:

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