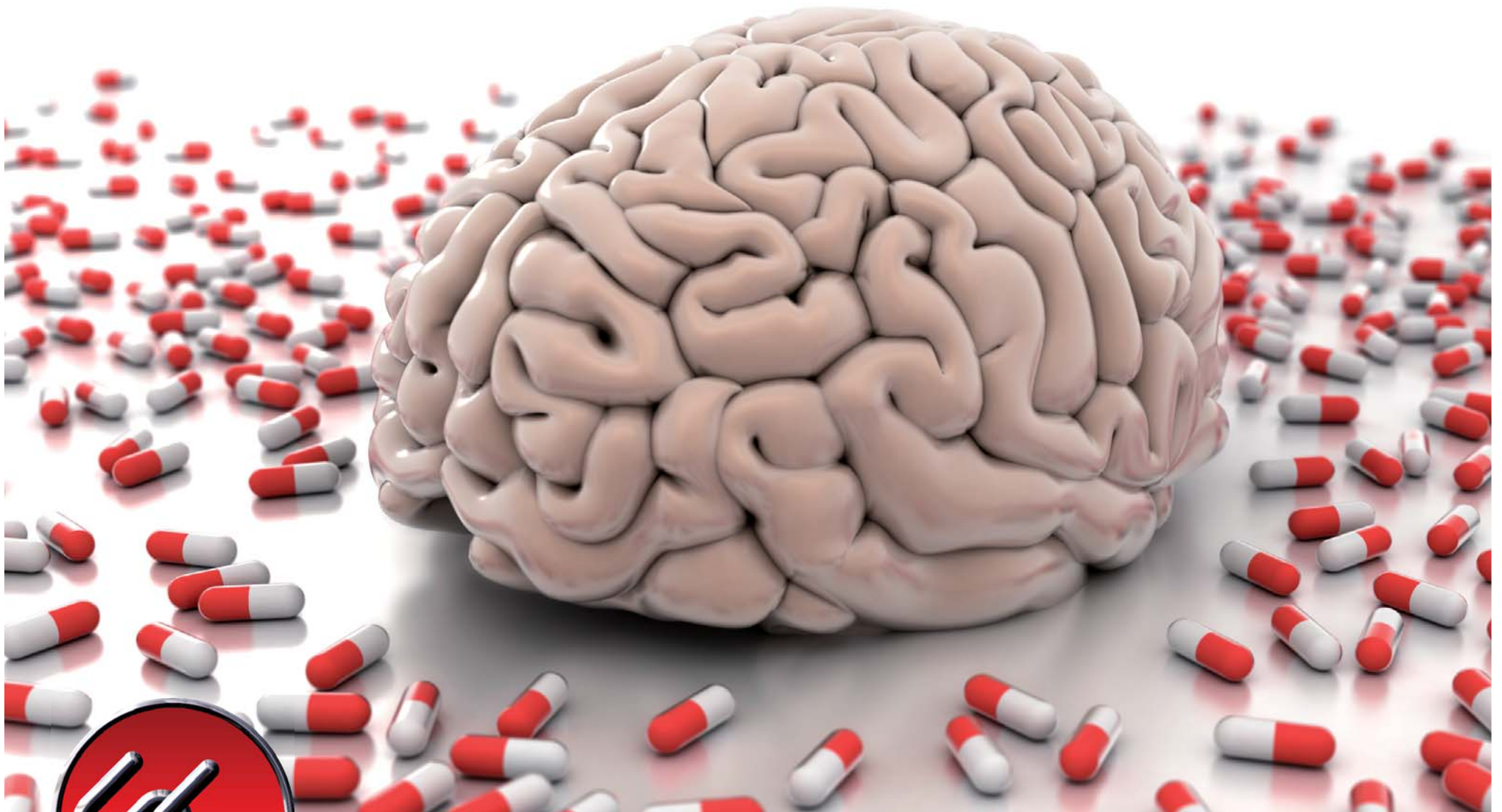


SEPTEMBER **2009** EDITION



MRCPPSych Past Papers Collection

CASC stations 2008 (June)

BEHAVIOURAL DISTURBANCE (LINKED)

An 80-year-old woman has suffered a recent fall. She is hostile to the staff at the nursing home where she lives and to other residents. She has accused people of taking her possessions and replacing them later.

Task (1): Elicit psychotic symptoms and perform a basic cognitive assessment.

Task (2): Discuss the working diagnosis and management plan with her daughter.

Additional information

- The patient may have been on amisulpiride.

BEHAVIOURAL DISTURBANCE (LINKED)

An elderly man with Alzheimer's disease in a nursing home has started with behavioural problems. He tried to hit another resident.

Task (1): Take a history from the support worker.

Task (2): You have started this man on olanzapine. Talk to the patient's son who is not happy about the treatment plan.

CONFUSION (LINKED)

A 60-year-old man is referred from casualty with a history of confusion.

Task (1): Assess the patient.

Task (2): Discuss the patient's presentation and management with the Consultant Psychiatrist.

Additional information

- The patient jumped on to the chair and said that insects were crawling on the floor.

PERSONALITY CHANGE (LINKED)

A 25-year-old man suffered a head injury in a pub brawl 2 years ago. There has been a change of his personality since then.

Task (1): Take a history of personality change from the patient's mother.

Task (2): Perform a cognitive assessment based on your findings.

ALCOHOL (LINKED)

A patient with alcohol problems is admitted to an orthopaedic ward after a fall.

Task (1): Take a history from the patient and perform a mental state examination.

Task (2): Talk to the nurse on the ward to get more information. Inform the nurse about your management plan.

Additional information

- The history suggested delirium.
- The patient initially denied any problems but went on to complain about visual and auditory hallucinations. He may have seen a cat and a dog and been disorientated in time and place. He may also have suffered with short-term memory problems.
- The nurse has spoken to the patient's daughter who confirmed the patient consumes excess alcohol.

SCHIZOPHRENIA (LINKED)

A patient with chronic schizophrenia.

Task (1): Take a history from the nurse from the assertive outreach team.

Task (2): Discuss the management of the patient with his father.

Additional information

- The patient's father was dissatisfied with the care provided.

EROTOMANIA (LINKED)

A man has arrived at the mental health unit and asked to speak to a nurse that he is in love with. He met the nurse in casualty a few months previously.

Task (1): Take a history to assess the patient's thoughts

Task (2): Talk to a Consultant Psychiatrist about the patient and management plan.

Additional information

- The patient said he wants to have sex with the nurse and detailed his sexual fantasies.

RISK ASSESSMENT (LINKED)

A man is brought to casualty by his partner. He is convinced that his partner is sleeping with a neighbour. There is a previous history of an assault on an ex-partner.

Task (1): Take a history from the patient.

Task (2): The Consultant Psychiatrist has suggested admission. Discuss the management plan with the man's partner.

Additional information

- The man became irritable when questioned about hallucinations.

DEPRESSION (LINKED)

A woman with treatment-resistant depression.

Task (1): Take a history of depressive symptoms and suggest investigations that may be useful.

Task (2): Discuss the management of the patient with her GP. She is planning to start a family.

Additional information

- The focus is on non-medication forms of treatment.

POST-NATAL DEPRESSION (LINKED)

A woman with a 7 month old baby, now 10 weeks pregnant, presents with depressive symptoms.

Task (1): Take a history of depression. Do not do a risk assessment or mental state examination.

Task (2): Discuss the presentation with the patient's husband. Address his concerns and allay his fears.

Additional information

- The patient said the child is possessed and she could see a demon in his eye. She called him a crying monster.
- Management discussion focused on medication, therapy and possible admission.

ANTIDEPRESSANT SIDE EFFECTS (LINKED)

A 45-year-old man who suffers with depression is taking fluoxetine 20mg daily. His mood has improved but he appears unwilling to continue taking his medication.

Task (1): Explore the reasons for his reluctance.

Task (2): Discuss the situation with the patient's wife, paying attention to her concerns.

Additional information

- The patient was reluctant to take his medication because of sexual side effects.
- The patient's wife was concerned that her husband was having a secret affair.

OVERDOSE (LINKED)

TASK (1): Assess a 15-year-old girl with a history of being bullied who has taken an overdose.

TASK (2): Discuss her case with the Consultant Psychiatrist.

OVERDOSE (LINKED)

A female teacher has taken an overdose of paracetamol tablets. She is socially isolated.

Task (1): Take a history of the overdose and social history.

Task (2): Talk to the patient's friend about the management of this case. Consent has been given for you to do this.

OVERDOSE (LINKED)

A 15-year-old girl has taken an overdose of paracetamol tablets.

Task (1): Take a history from the patient and elicit aetiological factors.

Task (2): Talk to the paediatric nurse about the management of the patient. Assume you do not have access to CAMHS beds.

Additional information

- The girl had a piece of paper in her hand on which she had written 'rape'.

ANXIETY (LINKED)

A 25-year-old man with chest pain. There is a family history of heart disease. He has been investigated with normal results. He has been told that his symptoms are all in his mind.

Task (1): Take a sympathetic history from the patient.

Task (2): Explain the symptoms to the patient's mother and allay her concerns.

SUDDEN LOSS OF VISION (LINKED)

A 21-year-old student is involved in a car accident in which his father is killed. The student develops diplopia and loss of vision at his father's funeral.

Task (1): Take a history of visual loss. Do not take a history of the bereavement. Examine his field of vision, eye movements, perform a fundoscopic examination and any other relevant physical examination.

Task (2): Speak to the mother and address her fears and anxieties.

Additional information

- The patient was wearing black glasses because of a red eye. Field of vision and eye movements (lateral gaze) were impaired. Vision was blurred. Fundoscopic examination was normal.
- Instruments available – red pin, ophthalmoscope, torchlight.
- The mother's script varied:
 - Her son has been examined by ophthalmologists already.
 - She blamed her son for her husband's death.
 - She is concerned that her son has a significant head injury after banging his head on the window and wants him examined by a 'proper' doctor. She questioned why he was being seen by a psychiatrist.
 - She asked if he was going to get better.

BIZARRE SYMPTOMS (LINKED)

A 30y-year-old woman has lost power in her right arm and left leg.

Task (1): Assess this patient's symptoms.

Task (2): Discuss your findings with the patient's husband.

EATING DISORDER (LINKED)

A 20-year-old woman is admitted to a medical ward with weight loss and hypokalaemia.

Task (1): Take a history from the patient.

Task (2): Discuss the diagnosis and management with the ward nurse.

Additional information

- She had a relationship breakdown 6 months previously which caused low self-esteem. She thought she needed to lose weight to be attractive.
- The patient's weight was 5.5 stones but she still wanted to lose more weight.
- She has an exam in the near future which was causing stress.

ADHD (LINKED)

An 8-year-old boy presents with ADHD-like symptoms.

Task (1): Take a history from the mother about her son's symptoms to confirm the diagnosis of ADHD.

Task (2): Discuss the management with the father of the son.

Additional information

- The father says there is a family history of similar problems.
- The son faced expulsion from school.

CAPACITY (LINKED)

A man is admitted to hospital with haematemesis. The physicians wish to carry out an endoscopy. The man refuses to give his consent.

Task (1): Assess the patient's capacity.

Task (2): Discuss your findings with the on call Consultant Psychiatrist.

Additional information

- The Consultant are asked what you would do if the patient tried to leave the ward.
- Some candidates were asked about the use of the Mental Health Act 1983.
- Some candidates were asked how their plans would change if the surgeons gave the patient 5 days to change his mind.

CASC stations 2008 (November)

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR (LINKED)

An elderly man has been discovered urinating in his garden. He is now in casualty.

Task (1): Assess the patient.

Task (2): Speak to his wife.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR (LINKED)

A man has exposed himself to a female neighbour in his garden.

Task (1): Assess the patient.

Task (2): Speak to the patient's wife.

Additional information

- The wife asks whether the information she is going to give you is confidential. She then tells you that he has twice molested his granddaughter.

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

A man is brought to see you by the police. A neighbour has complained that the man was sexually inappropriate with their daughter.

Task: Assess the risk this man presents to children.

CONFUSION

An elderly man is found wandering in the street. He is picked up by the police.

Task: Perform a cognitive examination.

CHANGE IN BEHAVIOUR

An elderly woman who lives on her own has not let her carers in to the house for a few weeks. The neighbours are concerned about her.

Task: Assess the patient at home with a view to risk.

PERSONALITY CHANGE

A boy has suffered a head injury 2 years ago and more recently has noticed personality changes.

Task: Talk to the boy's mother to assess the changes in his personality.

ALCOHOL

Task: Talk to a man whose wife has insisted he seek help for his drinking. Assess the extent of the problem.

DRUG MISUSE

A man with a history of multiple drug misuse has presented himself in casualty.

Task: Take a history of drug misuse and establish harmful use.

DRUG MISUSE (LINKED)

A 22-year-old woman who takes methadone is still using heroin. She suspects that she is pregnant although she has not had a period for 2 years.

Task (1): Address her concerns and discuss management issues.

Task (2): Talk to the patient's partner. Explain the risks in the prenatal and postnatal period. Address his concerns.

PSYCHOSIS (LINKED)

A 75-year-old lady was detained yesterday. She is annoyed at being in hospital. She feels the neighbours are poisoning her food, sending poisonous gases through the walls of her house, talk about her and spy on her.

Task (1): Assess the patient for thought disorder and perceptual abnormalities.

Task (2): The patient has been started on olanzapine. Talk to the patient's brother. Explain your findings and address his concerns.

PSYCHOSIS

A 25-year-old man has experienced hallucinations for 3 days.

Task: Assess the patient's mental state.

Additional information

- The patient had hallucinations, paranoid thoughts and hypnagogic hallucinations.

PSYCHOSIS

Task: Explore psychopathology

Additional information

- The patient had 2nd and 3rd person auditory hallucinations.

PSYCHOSIS

Postman having bizarre thoughts.

Task: Assess any abnormal experiences.

Additional information

- The postman was experiencing delusions of guilt.

PSYCHOSIS (LINKED)

A student presents with paranoid thoughts.

Task (1): Assess a student for psychotic symptomatology.

Task (2): Talk to the student's mother about the presentation and management.

SCHIZOPHRENIA

The mother of a newly diagnosed schizophrenic is angry about the diagnosis made. You are the duty doctor.

Task: Explain schizophrenia to the patient's mother.

RISK OF VIOLENCE

Task: Assess the risk of violence in a 25-year-old man with schizophrenia who threatened his partner with a knife.

EROTOMANIA

A young man has come to the hospital reception and demanded to see a staff nurse. He claims he is in love with her and she is in love with him. The receptionist has asked you to see him.

Task: Assess the man's beliefs. Establish the level of dangerousness.

Additional information

- The man may say he has a knife at home.

ANTIPSYCHOTIC SIDE-EFFECTS

A young woman presents to casualty with restlessness and agitation. She has been on 'triflu' for 3 days.

Task: Talk to the patient to find the cause of her problems and address her concerns.

HYPOMANIA (LINKED)

An elderly patient

Task (1): Assess the patient.

Task (2): Speak to the Consultant.

Additional information

- Hypomanic presentation

AGITATION

An elderly farmer has become agitated with sudden onset of symptoms.

Task (1): Assess his mental state.

Task (2): Speak to his wife about management.

Additional information

- The patient has grandiose delusions, irritability and paranoid thoughts about his neighbours.

DEPRESSION

A man is on a cardiac rehabilitation programme after suffering a myocardial infarction. He has been feeling low for the past few weeks.

Task (1): Take a social history from the patient.

Task (2): Discuss the management with the Consultant Psychiatrist.

DEPRESSION

Task: Assess a woman who thinks she is dead. She tried to burn her body on a fire.

POSTNATAL DEPRESSION

The mother of a 7-month-old baby comes to see with symptoms of postnatal depression.

Task: Elicit the symptoms and do not do a risk assessment. Discuss management options with her.

BEREAVEMENT

A GP has referred a lady to you. She recently lost her husband.

Task: Assess whether this is a normal bereavement reaction or pathological.

DEPRESSION/EPILEPSY

A depressed patient recently had his dose of dosulepin increased. Since then he has experienced strange problems. His GP has asked you to rule out temporal lobe epilepsy.

Task: Take a history from the patient to answer the GP's question.

ANTIDEPRESSANT SIDE EFFECTS

A man is being treated with fluoxetine for depression. He complains of side-effects and has come to discuss them with you.

Task: Assess for side-effects. Address his concerns and discuss management options.

Additional information

- The patient complains of sexual side-effects.

OVERDOSE (LINKED)

A 15-year-old girl has taken an overdose of 80 paracetamol tablets.

Task (1): Assess the patient.

Task (2): Talk to the paediatric nurse about the management of the patient.

Additional information

- The patient had a paper in her hand on which she had written 'rape'. She was raped by her stepfather.

OVERDOSE

A 20-year-old woman has taken on overdose of three tablets of 2mg diazepam.

Task: Take a history and perform a risk assessment with a view to admission or discharge.

OVERDOSE (LINKED)

A 15-year-old girl has taken an overdose. She has been bullied.

Task (1): Carry out a risk assessment.

Task (2): Discuss management with the Consultant.

Additional information

- The girl left a suicide note. She appeared withdrawn, eyes downcast, spoke in low tones.
- The Consultant asks about the management of bullying.

ANXIETY

A 58-year-old woman is anxious despite being given the all clear by the physicians.

Task: Assess the patient for symptoms of anxiety in order to reach a diagnosis.

Additional information

- The patient had generalised anxiety symptoms.

ANXIETY

A young woman who works as a scientist is due to marry in 3 months. She feels anxious about it and is worried that she may not make it.

Task: Assess the woman. Focus on aetiological factors for her presenting complaint.

PANIC ATTACKS (LINKED)

A football player is experiencing panic attacks. He is not willing to play football now. He failed to score in a match 8 weeks ago.

Task (1): Speak to the patient and elicit the presence of cognitive distortions, namely selective abstraction, minimisation and maximisation.

Task (2): Speak to the player's manager about management and prognosis.

Additional information

- When talking to the manager, the issue of using medication in sports is brought up.

PANIC ATTACKS

Task: Explain hyperventilation.

AGORAPHOBIA (LINKED)

Task: Assess the patient's symptoms.

Task: Explain the management of agoraphobia to the patient's husband.

Additional information

- The patient's husband is tired of her symptoms.

AGORAPHOBIA

A young lady has been diagnosed with agoraphobia. She has been recommended desensitisation therapy.

Task: Explain the rationale and process of desensitisation therapy for agoraphobia. Address any anxieties or worries she has.

PTSD

A man has been involved in a road traffic accident.

Task: Assess the man.

ILLNESS BEHAVIOUR (LINKED)

A young man complains of pain in the back of his head. Investigations by a neurologist, including CT scan, are normal.

Task (1): Take a history of pain and associated symptoms from the patient. Do not discuss diagnosis or management.

Task (2): Talk to the patient's girlfriend. Explain the diagnosis and management. Address her concerns.

Additional information

- The patient's uncle has suffered with cancer which the patient is now worried that he too has.

ILLNESS BEHAVIOUR

A young man has been referred to you by the physicians. He is complaining of chronic back pain of 4 years duration.

Task: Take a history of pain and address his concerns. Do not explain the diagnosis or management to him.

CONVERSION DISORDER

A woman in her 30s presents with sudden onset of paralysis affecting her right arm and left leg. All physical tests are normal.

Task: Assess the woman's symptoms.

EATING DISORDER (LINKED)

A patient has suffered with anorexia in the past. She recently broke up with her boyfriend. She feels she is going to be ill again.

Task (1): Take a family history and personal history from the patient.

Task (2): Discuss the case with the Consultant Psychiatrist.

EATING DISORDER

A 16-year-old girl is an inpatient on your ward. She has a diagnosis of anorexia. Her weight loss and hypokalaemia have been corrected.

Task: Talk to the patient's mother and explain the diagnosis, symptoms and management. Address any concerns she may have.

ADHD (LINKED)

The patient is a child who has been brought to see by his mother.

Task (1): Take a history of ADHD from the mother of the child.

Task (2): Explain the management to the father of the child.

Additional information

- The father asks about the risk to future children.

LEARNING DISABILITY

A man and his partner, both suffering with mild learning disability, come to see you. The woman is pregnant. They expect the baby will be taken away after birth by child social services.

Task (1): Assess the man. Elicit his concerns and help him to accept support.

Task (2): Speak to the woman and elicit her fears and concerns. [On another day, it was the patient's mother, not partner]

Additional information

- The man has exposed himself in public and been charged once.
- The woman is concerned about the father of her child.
- The mother asks why they were not sterilised]

CAPACITY

A man who suffers with schizophrenia is brought from his hostel to the hospital because of bleeding. He needs to have an urgent endoscopy. The physicians have told him about the benefits and potential risks from the procedure. He refuses all interventions.

Task: Assess the patient's capacity.

CASC stations 2009 (March)

CONFUSION (LINKED)

A man in a nursing home has been wandering in a confused state. He has hit a fellow resident.

Task (1): Talk to the carer of the man to elicit the probably causes for his change in behaviour.

Task (2): Talk to the son who is upset that his father is now treated with olanzapine. Address his concerns.

Additional information

- The patient has suffered with dementia for 5 years. He has been in the care home for 1 year. The problem started 3 months ago. The man has been medically examined by his GP and no problems were discovered.
- The son questions you on alternative to medication for his father.

CONFUSION

An elderly man is brought to hospital by his daughter. He is confused. In the past he has suffered with a stroke which left him with visual impairment and one-sided paralysis.

Task: Perform a cognitive assessment including a mini-mental state examination.

CONFUSION (LINKED)

An elderly man is confused. He is disorientated. He suffers with visual and olfactory hallucinations.

Task (1): Assess the patient.

Task (2): Talk to the Consultant Psychiatrist about the differential diagnoses.

FRONTAL LOBE

A 65-year-old man presents with restlessness, a change in behaviour and wandering.

Task: Do a cognitive assessment with a focus on frontal lobe pathology.

Additional information

- The patient performed poorly on frontal lobe testing.

FRONTO TEMPORAL DEMENTIA

A patient is brought to see you. He has been urinating in the garden.

Task: Take a history from the patient.

DEMENTIA (LINKED)

Task (1): Take a history of dementia from the patient's daughter.

Task (2): Discuss the case with the Consultant Psychiatrist.

ANTIDEMENTIA TREATMENT

An elderly woman is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

Task: Talk to the 53-year-old daughter of the patient about antideementia medication. Discuss benefits and side-effects.

Additional information

- The daughter has searched the internet and is worried about liver problems with anti-dementia drugs.

DRUG MISUSE

Task: Take a history of drug misuse from a polysubstance drug misuse.

ASSAULT (LINKED)

A man is brought to casualty by his wife. He has a history of assaulting a previous partner after which he was admitted to hospital. He has been taking medication for the last 3 years.

Task (1): Take a history from the patient and assess the risk.

Task (2): You have discussed the case with the Consultant Psychiatrist who has advised that the patient needs to be admitted, against his will if necessary. Discuss this management plan with the partner of the patient. Assume the patient has consented to this discussion.

PARANOIA

A young man is brought to casualty by the police. He had presented himself to the police station and told the police he 'was sick and tired of hiding from them.'

Task: Take a history to illustrate the presence of psychopathology.

POSTMAN PSYCHOSIS

No further details

EROTOMANIC MAN TOWARDS NURSE (LINKED)

A 34 year old man has attended casualty and asked to speak to a particular nurse. When the receptionist refused his request, he waved a knife at her. The police want you to assess this man.

Task (1): Assess the patient's dangerousness.

Task (2): The man had been apprehended by the police but has now escaped. Talk to the nurse about risk issues and management.

Additional details

- The man is clutching a bag and says is carrying handcuffs for BDSM and a knife for cutting apples. He denies any intention to harm the nurse. He denies a forensic history.

ADOLESCENT PSYCHOSIS (LINKED)

A 16-year-old boy about to take GCSE exams is referred by his GP who suspects he is suffering with a psychotic illness.

Task (1): Take a history from the patient. Do not take a full developmental history.

Task (2): Talk to the Consultant Psychiatrist about the patient and discuss the management of this case.

Additional information

- Patient complains of a strange feeling as if there is a presence around him. He hears a female voice asking him to marry her. No third person or running commentary. He feels his head is not part of his body. Feels paranoid as if his friends are talking about him. He has confronted them but they deny it. He has smoked cannabis for 2 years and usage has increased in the last year. He is due to give GCSEs and feels stressed.
- The Consultant Psychiatrist discusses Early Intervention Services for first presentation psychotic patients. The patient's age means he falls between CAMHS and adult services.

DISTRESSED PATIENT

A patient suffering with schizophrenia is distressed. The ward staff ask you to review him.

Task: Assess the patient to determine the cause of his distress.

Additional information

- The patient suffers with persecutory delusions and thought insertion. He says security services are after him, reading his thoughts and beaming thoughts into his head that he is an Al-Qaeda terrorist. He has been in hospital for 3 weeks and is on risperidone. He has felt safe but today he felt something was about to happen, similar to how he felt on admission.

DELUSIONS

A female patient on the ward hears a voice telling her is a member of Al Qaeda. She is distressed.

Task: Assess her beliefs and find out the cause of her distress.

ANTIPSYCHOTIC TREATMENT

A 21-year-old male patient with schizophrenia has suffered two relapses in the last three years. He has responded to olanzapine medication.

Task: Talk to the patient's mother. Explain the diagnosis and treatment plan. Address her concerns.

Additional information

- The patient has relapsed due to non-compliance. Education and the option of depot medication are discussed.

OUTPATIENT REVIEW

You are seeing a patient with schizophrenia in your outpatient clinic.

Task: Perform a mental state examination.

PSYCHOTIC DEPRESSION

A patient built a fire in her garden.

Task: Assess the patient for psychopathology

Additional information

- The patient is psychotically depressed and believed she was dead. She answers, "I'm dead" to most questions. Nihilistic delusions. She had a previous presentation and responded to ECT.

POSTNATAL DEPRESSION (LINKED)

10 weeks pregnant with a 7 month baby.

Task (1): Elicit psychopathology

Task (2): Discuss the case with the patient's husband.

Additional information

- The patient's husband wants to take her home.

DEPRESSION (LINKED)

A sports teacher has suffered a myocardial infarction and is now depressed.

Task (1): Take a history to elicit the reasons for the depression.

Task (2): Talk to the Consultant Psychiatrist about this case.

GUILTY

An elderly lady feels guilty for having committed a crime several years ago.

Task: Assess this patient.

Additional information

- The lady has delusional guilt and depressive symptoms. There is no past psychiatric history.

MANIA

A male patient wants to look at his medical records. He is late for his appointment and wants to leave soon. He has been depressed in the past.

Task: Assess this patient's thoughts.

Additional information

- The patient is hypomanic.

ANTIDEPRESSANT SIDE EFFECTS (LINKED)

A 40-year-old man suffering with depression has been taking fluoxetine 20mg daily for six weeks. His symptoms have partially improved. He now wants to stop taking the medication. He has been referred to your clinic by the community psychiatric nurse.

Task (1): Explore the reasons for the patient wanting to stop taking his medication.

Task (2): Talk to the patient's wife and address her concerns. Discuss your management plan with her.

DEPRESSION TREATMENT

A lady in her mid-twenties has suffered with depression for 5 years. She was on fluoxetine 20mg daily which was increased to 40mg daily to no avail. Her antidepressant was then changed to venlafaxine 150mg daily. She reports significant weight gain on this medication.

Task: Discuss the management options with the patient with particular reference to side effects.

Additional information

- Any new treatments proposed need to take into consideration weight gain. Eg lithium, valproate
- Medical and psychological management options are discussed.
- The patient asks whether hypothyroidism is a possible cause for the weight gain, leading to a discussion about appropriate investigations.

DEPRESSED PATIENT

A depressed patient is on amitriptyline.

Task: Explain the management of the patient's illness using lithium.

ECT

A 65-year-old man has tried two different antidepressants but his depressive symptoms have not improved. The Consultant Psychiatrist has suggested ECT as the next treatment.

Task: Explain ECT to the patient and obtain his informed consent.

SUICIDAL RISK

A 25-year-old man suffering with schizophrenia has been in hospital under the Mental Health Act for the past 5 weeks. He now wishes to go on escorted leave with his sister.

Task: Assess the risk of suicide.

Additional information

- The patient has bizarre ideas about immersing himself in mud in order to cleanse himself and be at one with the mud. He plans to jump off a bridge into the shallow parts of a river where the mud is and dip himself up to his neck. He denies any intention to kill himself.

DELIBERATE SELF-HARM

A patient presents with a self-inflicted injury to casualty.

Task: Perform a risk assessment.

Additional information

- The patient has cut her leg. She said her current girlfriend was threatening to leave her. She hears voices of ex-girlfriends but only when under stress. She hears voices telling her to cut. Borderline personality type presentation. The last time she cut herself was 4 years ago when her then girlfriend committed suicide by hanging.

OVERDOSE (LINKED)

A 15-year-old girl has taken an overdose of 40 paracetamol tablets. She has been bullied at school. She left a suicide note. She is now medically fit for discharge.

Task (1): Assess the risk.

Task (2): Talk to the Consultant Psychiatrist about management.

Additional information

- The patient's mother has a past history of depression and has been treated with lithium.
- The patient has depressive symptoms. The patient does not want to share information about bullying with her mother.
- The Consultant wants to know how to stop the bullying.

OVERDOSE

A 47-year-old man presents to casualty with an overdose. He is medically fit for discharge.

Task: Assess the risk to see if the man should be detained in hospital.

Additional information

- The patient suffers with depressive symptoms and does not want to be admitted to hospital.

OCD

A young woman has been referred by her GP after suffering stress at work.

Task: Assess for symptoms of obsessive compulsive disorder.

CONVERSION DISORDER

A paralysed young woman

Task: Take a history to illustrate conversion disorder.

HYPOCHONDRIASIS (LINKED)

A man presents with headaches and believes he has brain cancer.

Task (1): Assess this man's symptoms. Take a past medical history.

Task (2): Talk to this man's girlfriend about management, the impact on their relationship and her concerns.

Additional information

- The patient is very convinced about his symptoms and has no doubt he has brain cancer. He has watched a programme on television showing brain surgery for a person with headaches. His mother kept referring him to the doctor for various health concerns. His uncle died of a brain tumour a year ago.
- The girlfriend confirmed the details about his mother and said he was a worrier. She is also planning to break up with him.

BODY DYSMORPHIC DISORDER

A 27-year-old lady complains that her eyes are set too wide apart and that she looks like a fish.

Task: Assess this patient to clarify the diagnosis.

Additional information

- People have called this lady 'fish face'. Several boyfriends have left her.

AGORAPHOBIA

A 24-year-old lady is diagnosed with agoraphobia.

Task: Explain the management of agoraphobia to the patient, including desensitisation. Answer her questions.

Additional information

- The lady had agoraphobic symptoms with panic attacks especially in supermarkets. She had great difficulty coming for the appointment.

EATING DISORDER

A 24-year-old woman who works at a horse race stable, is referred to you by her GP. She has been seeing a therapist privately.

Task: Take a history to assess for the presence of bulimia and to clarify prognostic factors.

EXPOSURE (LINKED)

An elderly man is brought to casualty by his wife. He has exposed himself to a neighbour. The neighbour does not wish to press charges if the patient agrees to see a doctor.

Task (1): Take a history from the patient. Focus on aetiological factors. Do not carry out a risk assessment.

Task (2): Speak to the patient's wife and get a collateral history. Address her concerns. Do not discuss management.

Additional information

- The patient initially denies there is a problem and hardly says anything.
- The wife asks information she tells you will be confidential. She reveals that the patient exposed himself to her granddaughter when she was 4 years old. Later he masturbated in a garden shed in the company of his granddaughter and this may have happened on more than one occasion. The wife cries and says she feels guilty. She fears that she will be embarrassed in her community by the revelations.
- The patient and his wife have not had sex for 3 years.

PAEDOPHILIA

Task: Assess risk to a child

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Thyroid examination

– take a history, interpret blood results and perform an examination. Bipolar patient on lithium for 4 years. GP monitoring. GP has written a letter. Read the letter, explain what it says to the patient. Explain possible management options and do a thyroid examination. Hand scrub is available.

Frontal lobe examination

Cardiovascular examination