A primer in Forensics Psychiatry - Navigating The Forensic Mental Health System

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CIAJ
43rd Annual Conference
19 October 2018
WHAT ARE THE MAIN MENTAL ILLNESSES?
Mental illnesses

- Psychotic disorders
  - Schizophrenia
- Mood disorders
  - Bipolar disorder
  - Major depressive disorder
- Anxiety disorders
- Personality disorders
- Substance use disorders
- Neurocognitive disorders
Mental illnesses

- Psychotic disorders
  - Schizophrenia
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Anxiety disorders
- Personality disorders
- Substance use disorders
- Neurocognitive disorders
Psychotic disorders

• Psychosis
  – Loosing touch with reality
  – 3 psychotic symptoms
    • Hallucinations
    • Delusions (Fixed false belief)
    • Disorganization (speech or behavior)

• Most common psychotic disorder
  – Schizophrenia (1% of the population)

• Other causes
  – Drug induced, medical illnesses
The Deteriorating Course, Brain Tissue Loss, and Treatment Resistance with Repetitive Relapses Following the First Episode in Schizophrenia

Level of Functioning

Age (years)

Prodrome

First episode

Response

Chronic relapsing/Residual symptoms

Progressive brain tissue loss

Treatment Resistance

Nasrallah, HA 2009
Cerebral lesions

1st episode 2nd episode 3rd episode 4th episode
Mood disorders

Bipolar type I

Mood state

Bipolar type II

Unipolar

Time
Other diagnosis

Chapter 4. Neurodevelopmental Disorders
Chapter 5. Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders
Chapter 6. Bipolar and Related Disorders
Chapter 7. Depressive Disorders
Chapter 8. Anxiety Disorders
Chapter 9. Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
Chapter 10. Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders
Chapter 11. dissociative Disorders
Chapter 12. Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders
Chapter 13. Feeding and Eating Disorders
Chapter 14. Elimination Disorders
Chapter 15. Sleep-Wake Disorders
Chapter 16. Sexual Dysfunctions
Chapter 17. Gender Dysphoria
Chapter 18. Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders
Chapter 19. Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders
Chapter 20. Neurocognitive Disorders
Chapter 21. Personality Disorders
Chapter 22. Paraphilic Disorders
Chapter 23. Other Mental Disorders
Chapter 24. Medication-Induced Movement Disorders and Other Adverse Effects of Medication
WHERE DID WE TREAT THE MENTAL ILLNESSES?
Deinstitutionalization
Transinstitutionalization

Rates of institutionalization, per 100,000 adults

- Thorazine
- Medicaid and Medicare
- Prison and jails
- Mental hospitals
- Combined

Graph showing the rates of institutionalization from 1940 to 2000.
Involuntary commitment: More stringent criteria
Transinstitutionalization: Causes

❖ Deinstitutionalization
  ▪ Decreased number of psychiatric beds
  ▪ Not proportionate investment in community treatment settings
    ○ Lack of community resources for the people with serious mental illness

❖ More stringent certification criteria
  ▪ Pendulum

❖ Government policies
  ▪ Though on crime
  ▪ More incarceration for minor offences and drug offences
HOW DO WE TREAT PATIENTS WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN CORRECTIONS?
Mental illnesses in correctional settings

- Substance use disorders: 80%
- Personality disorders: 60%

- Over representation Serious mental illnesses (SMI)
  - Male 15-20% (women: 30%)
  - 4% psychosis (compared to 1% of general population)
  - 2% bipolar (compared to 1% in general population)
  - 10% MDD
Interdisciplinary Care

Multidisciplinary Model

Interdisciplinary Model

Fig. 1: Multidisciplinary vs. Interdisciplinary models of care.
Challenges in Correctional Psychiatry

- Less resources for interdisciplinary care
  - Compared to hospitals
- Security may trump health needs
- Correctional settings considered as outpatient settings under MHA
  - Barriers to Access to specialized mental health care
HOW DO PATIENTS ACCESS THE FORENSIC SYSTEM?
What is their mental illness?

Out of 100 individuals found NCR have a:

- 11% personality disorder
- 23% mood disorder
- 31% substance use disorder
- 71% psychotic disorder

1/3 have more than one illness

Services Delivery Models in Forensic Mental Health

• Interdisciplinary
  – Intensive case management
  – Forensic ACT team

• Provincial Review Board Disposition
  – Lower threshold for readmission
  – Approval of housing
  – Other conditions
Recidivism of NCR (after 3 years of Follow-up)

- Serious violence re-offence: 0.6%
- Other violent offences against the person: 8.8%
- Any type of re-offence: 17%

Recidivism

34-60%
SAFETY THROUGH RECOVERY

Interdisciplinary Mental health Care

Patient’s recovery

Increase Public Safety
QUESTIONS