

Priority Topic: SCHIZOPHRENIA

Key Features:

For a nice summary article, check out: [Schizophrenia AAFP 2014](#)

1. In [adolescents](#) presenting with [problem behaviours](#), consider [schizophrenia](#) in the differential diagnosis.

What you should study: see also [Priority Topic Behavioural Problems](#)

✓ [Recognition and Ddx of Psychosis AAFP 2015](#)

2. In “apparently” [stable patients with schizophrenia](#) (e.g., those who are not floridly psychotic), provide [regular or periodic assessment](#) in a structured fashion e.g., positive and negative symptoms, their performance of activities of daily living, and the level of social functioning at each visit:
 - [seeking collateral information](#) from family members and other caregivers to develop a more complete assessment of symptoms and functional status;
 - [competency to accept or refuse treatment](#), and document specifically;
 - [suicidal](#) and [homicidal](#) ideation, as well as the [risk for violence](#);
 - medication [compliance](#) and [side effects](#).

What you should study: see also [Priority Topics Mental Competency, Depression and Suicide](#)

Be sure to assess: symptoms, function, medication, risk of danger (suicide, homicide, violence), substance use, collateral information, competency

✓ **Just do it!**

3. In all patients presenting with **psychotic** symptoms, inquire about **substance use and abuse**.

What you should study:

✓ **Recognition and Ddx of Psychosis AAFP 2015**

4. Consider the possibility of **substance abuse** and look for it in patients with schizophrenia, as **this is a population at risk**.

What you should study:

✓ **Schizophrenia and Substance Use**

5. In patients with schizophrenia, **assess and treat substance abuse** appropriately.

What you should study:

✓ **Primary Care Approach to Substance Misuse AAFP 2013**

NB: this article uses DSM-IV definitions

6. In **decompensating** patients with schizophrenia, determine:

- if **substance abuse** is contributory.
- the role of **medication compliance** and **side-effect problems**.
- if **psychosocial supports** have changed.

What you should study:

✓ **Les nouveaux antipsychotiques Prise 2 MduQ 2014**

✓ **Les antipsychotiques atypiques a toutes les sauces MduQ 2012**

7. Diagnose and treat serious [complications/side effects](#) of antipsychotic medications (e.g., neuroleptic malignant syndrome, tardive dyskinesia).

What you should study:

- ✓ [Adverse Effects of Antipsychotic Medications AAFP 2010](#)
- ✓ [Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome Am J Psychiatry 2007](#)
- ✓ [La dyskinesie tardive - toujours d'actualite MduQ 2012](#)

8. Include [psychosocial supports](#) (e.g., housing, family support, disability issues, vocational rehabilitation) as part of the [treatment plan](#) for patients with schizophrenia.

What you should study:

- ✓ **Just do it!**

**We also have the full Diagnostic Criteria from the DSM-5 for you:
(also available via McGill library - search DSM-5)**

- ✓ [Brief Psychotic Disorder](#)
- ✓ [Delusional Disorder](#)
- ✓ [Psychotic disorder due to Medical condition](#)
- ✓ [Schizoaffective Disorder](#)
- ✓ [Schizophreniform disorder](#)
- ✓ [Schizophrenia](#)
- ✓ [Substance-induced Psychotic Disorder](#)