Schizophrenia

**Schizophreni**a – is a mental disorder characterized by the breakdown of thinking processes and emotional reaction.

The first description of schizophrenia, as an independent unit, was put forward by V. Kh. Kandinsky under the name "ideophrenia", which was described in detail in his work "On Pseudohallucinations".

In 1908, the Swiss psychiatrist Eugen Bleuler described schizophrenia as an independent disease distinct from dementia and introduced the term into psychiatry.

Schizophrenic disorders, in general, are characterized:

1. fundamental disorders of thinking and perception,

2. inadequate or reduced affect.

The most common manifestations of the disease are:

1. auditory pseudohallucinations,

2. confabulations (false memories),

3. paranoid or fantastic delusions or disorganization of speech and thinking against the background of significant social dysfunction and impaired performance.

The therapy.

In the treatment of schizophrenia:

1. drug therapy with antipsychotics is the main one,

2. along with cognitive behavioral psychotherapy,

3. family psychotherapy,

4. occupational therapy,

5. social rehabilitation.

Schizophrenia is one of the main causes leading to disability. In a severe variant of the course of the disease, if the patient poses a risk to himself and others, involuntary hospitalization may be required.

Most patients suffering from schizophrenia can be treated on an outpatient basis most of the time. Even in the acute period of the disease, outpatient treatment is often possible. Hospitalization may be required for severe episodes of schizophrenia. It can be voluntary or involuntary.

Signs and symptoms of the disease

Currently , the following signs of schizophrenia are distinguished:

• productive symptoms (most often delusions and hallucinations),

• negative symptoms (decreased energy potential, apathy, lack of will),

• cognitive disorders (disorders of thinking, perception, attention).

Positive and negative symptoms

Symptoms of schizophrenia are divided into:

**1. positive (psychoproductive**) - ones include delusions and disorders of thinking, hallucinations — manifestations that usually indicate the presence of excessive activity of the psyche — the presence of a "reflection without an object".

**2. negative (psychodeficient**) - are the loss or absence of normal reactions: a decrease in the brightness of emotions and emotional reactions experienced — a decrease in affect, scarcity of speech (alogia), inability to enjoy — anhedonia, loss of motivation, desire and volitional motivation — apathy and abulia.

Prevalence of the disease

Schizophrenia equally often affects individuals of both sexes, but in men it usually begins earlier, with a peak incidence in 20-28 years versus 26-32 years in women.

Schizophrenia occurs much less frequently in early childhood[76], cases of late (beginning in middle age) and very late (in old age) schizophrenia are also rare.

Etiology (causes of the disease)

Important pathogenic factors are:

1. genetic predisposition,

2. living conditions in early childhood,

3. neurobiological disorders,

4. psychological and social interactions.