Psychotic disorders
Identification and management

Positive psychotic symptoms
- Delusions
- Hallucinations
- Disorganized behavior

Negative psychotic symptoms
- Decreased enjoyment
- Decreased motivation
- Social withdrawal
- Neurocognitive impairments

Differential diagnosis for positive symptoms

Positive psychotic symptoms have a wide differential, and can manifest as a result of other disorders, deficiencies, and infections.

Management of psychotic disorders

Early referral to specialist services is beneficial. However, longer-term cases may involve management in primary care. A General Practitioner (GP) may support four to eight patients with psychotic disorder and see one new presentation each year.

Prodromal
Prodromal illness can only be established retrospectively. However, it is possible to identify patients at high risk for developing psychosis.

Brief / transient
Occur abruptly within two weeks and are usually related to an acute stressful event or use of a drug.

Subthreshold experiences
Subtle changes in perception may antecede frank psychosis.

KEY REFLECTION:
Would I be surprised if this turned out to be psychosis over the next 6 months?

Enduring
Enduring or recurring symptoms may indicate a longer-lasting condition.

Bio-psycho-social approach
Treatment is tailored around symptoms and effects on quality of life and function.

Specialist early Intervention teams
Community based services are the preferred model of care for people over 14, including:

- Allocated keyworker
- Psychiatrist
- A multidisciplinary approach

Antipsychotic medication
2nd generation
These tend to be preferred due to fewer extra-pyramidal side effects

1st generation

Psychological therapies
These are a cornerstone of treatment, and can be offered adjunctively to medication. They can be used preemptively before a formal diagnosis to reduce or delay onset of psychosis.

Physical health
Monitor for cardio-metabolic risk

© 2017 BMJ Publishing group Ltd.
Read the full article online http://bit.ly/BMJearlypsy
Disclaimer: This infographic is not a validated clinical decision aid. This information is provided without any representations, conditions, or warranties that it is accurate or up to date. BMJ and its licensors assume no responsibility for any aspect of treatment administered with the aid of this information. Any reliance placed on this information is strictly at the user’s own risk. For the full disclaimer wording see BMJ’s terms and conditions: http://www.bmj.com/ company/legal-information/