Differential Diagnosis: Psychosis and Trauma

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Case 1

- 20 yo man
- Abusive alcoholic father – lived in fear
- Obsessive symptoms through childhood
- Left side of brain gives commands to self-harm
- Reaches down into heart and squeezes
- Chronic SI
- Unemployed, depends on parents
- Idealizes care providers who will cure him
Case 2

- Palestinian immigrant
- Participated in Intifada, jailed, tortured
- Proud of his resistance, no PTSD
- Symptom onset on anniversary of jail release
- Depersonalization, paranoia, hallucinations, erratic behavior
- Response to risperidone, relapses on taper
Differentiating PTSD & Schizophrenia

• 20% of people with PTSD experience psychosis
  – With dissociative symptoms specifier in DSM
  – No psychotic features specifier
• Childhood trauma - ⬆ risk for schizophrenia
• Re-experiencing vs hallucinations/delusions
• Are hallucinations related to trauma?
• What are themes of delusions?
• Graphic nature of experience common