**Differential Diagnosis: Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective Disorder**

Compared to patients with Schizophrenia, patients with schizoaffective disorder have more prominent depressive and manic symptoms, less severe negative symptoms and hallucinations, and better overall functioning.

Examining symptom frequency, in Schizoaffective Disorder we tend to see fewer auditory hallucinations, delusions, disorganized thinking, catatonia and negative symptoms.

With regard to family history, we tend to see a family history of mood disorder in patients with Schizoaffective Disorder.

**Sx’s of Schizophrenia:**

Thought disorder, disorganized speech, general apathy, paranoia, auditory/visual/gustatory/olfactory/tactile hallucinations, delusions; negative symptoms (withdrawal, neglecting hygiene, suicidality, loss of pleasure), Symptoms last at least 6 months

**Schizoaffective Disorder**

 A person with schizoaffective disorder exhibits the symptoms of schizophrenia in addition to a mood episode including depression and mania.

We specify if it is: Bipolar or Depressive Type

**Bipolar type:**This subtype is given if a manic episode is part of the presentation of symptoms. Major depressive episodes can also occur with this subtype.

**Depressive type**: This subtype is given if only major depressive episodes are part of the presentation.

A depressive episode requires five or more of the following symptoms during a two-week period:

* depressed mood
* lack of pleasure in activities formerly enjoyed
* changes in weight or appetite
* changes in sleep
* slowing of movement
* lack of energy
* feelings of guilt or worthlessness
* difficulty concentrating
* thoughts of death or suicide

A manic episode requires a period of elevated or irritable mood and increased activity or energy for at least one week, and at least three of the following symptoms:

* increased self-esteem or sense of grandiosity
* needing less sleep
* becoming more talkative
* racing thoughts
* being easily distracted
* more goal-directed activity (energy)
* engaging in risky behaviors (i.e. sexual, financial, etc.)