

COMPLEX PTSD

Dr. M Khalkhali, MD, Psychiatrist
Guilan University of Medical Sciences
Shafa Psychiatry Hospital ,Rasht, Iran

PTSD has been recognized as a human response to trauma

PTSD has been evidenced throughout history.

Battle of Marathon by Herodotus in fifth century Ancient Greece.

Flashback-like dreams were documented by Hippocrates (4607-377 BC)

PTSD flashbacks and nightmares: War between England and France (13/37 to 1453)





Shakespeare:

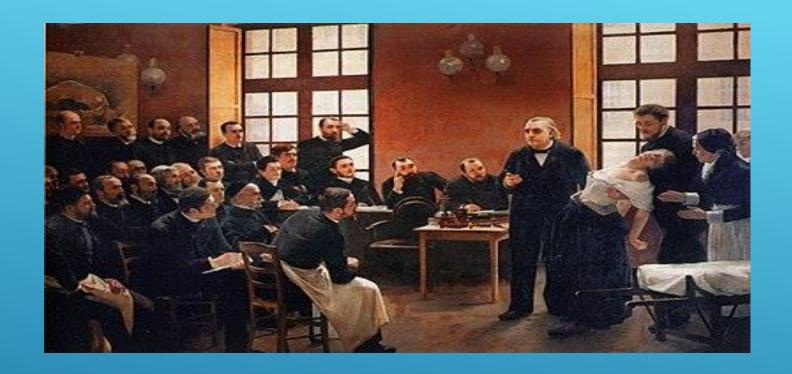
Romeo and Juliet,

Queen Mab,

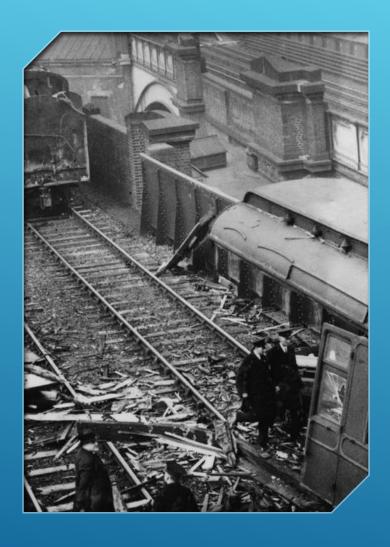
a character who creates dreams in the minds of men; who would wake men through dreams of battle and death.

Macbeth

- ▶ By the 1800s, :"battle exhaustion" or "soldier's fatigue" a reference to the repeated forays into battle by traumatized soldiers, resulting in exhaustion of the body's responses, particularly during long engagements with daily fire.
- ► "Thousand-yard stare," a reference to the blank look and dissociated demeanor of traumatized soldiers.

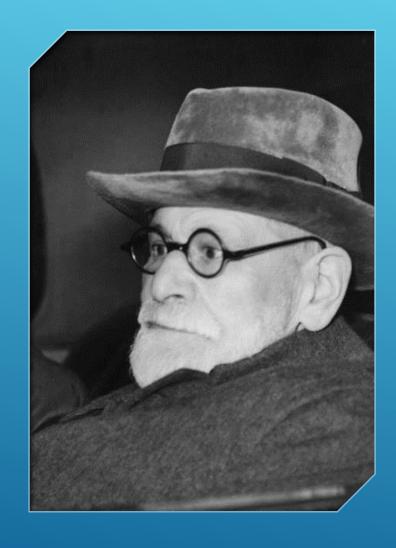


In 1887 at the Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris Jean-Martin Charcot documented that traumatic experience could later lead to "hysterical attacks" that might happen years after the trauma.

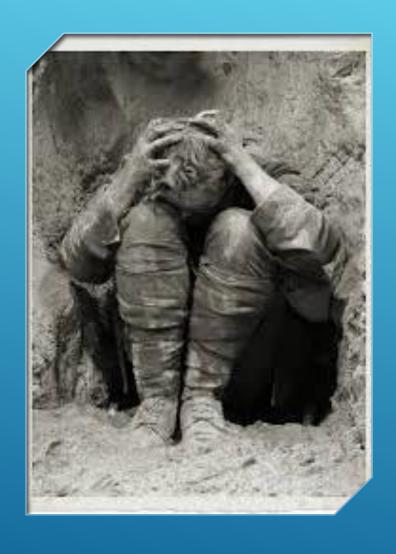


Railway spine" during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The first full length medical study of the condition was John Eric Erichsen's classic book, On Railway and Other Injuries of the Nervous System.



By the late 1800s and early 1900s, the "talking cure," as popularized by Sigmund Freud, began as a method to treat symptoms that may have been caused by PTSD. These early therapeutic interventions were the first step toward helping people who had survived traumatic events



In 1915, the term "shell shock" was introduced to medical literature.

By the 1950s, treatments became more humane, but many people would not admit to any trauma symptoms due to the stigma surrounding mental illness.



Modern definitions of PTSD gained national spotlight in the 1970s, as countless Vietnam veterans began experiencing a host of psychological problems, many persisting upon their return home.

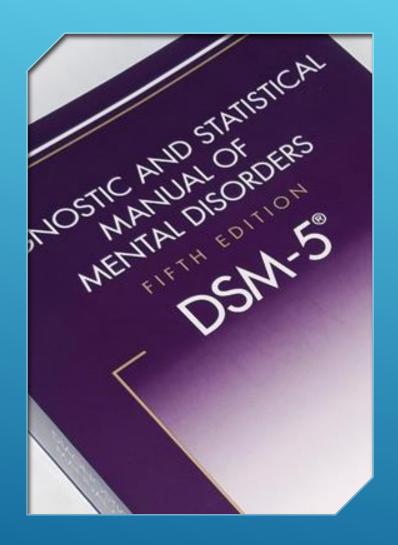


THE VICTIM OF RAPE

Lynda Lytle Holmstrom Ann Wolbert Burgess

INSTITUTIONAL REACTIONS

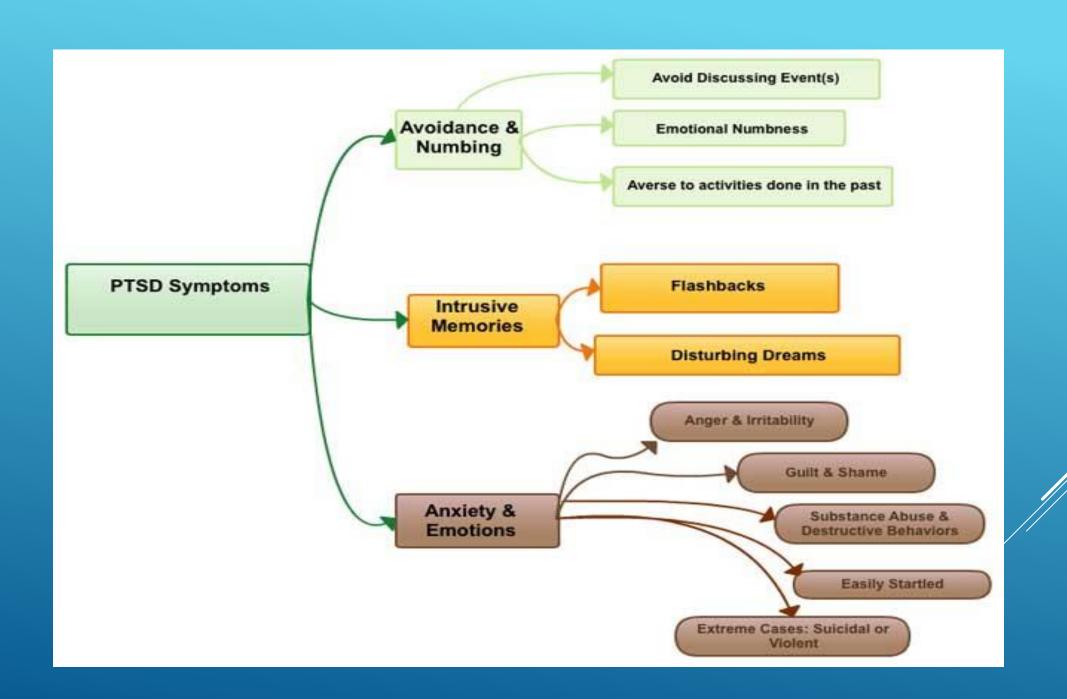
70s began to study
1 veterans, and survivors of
1 wo-person team of
1 Lynda Lytle Holmstrom
2 the term, "Rape Trauma
3 riant of PTSD experienced
4 one the harrowing
6 — marked by three phases

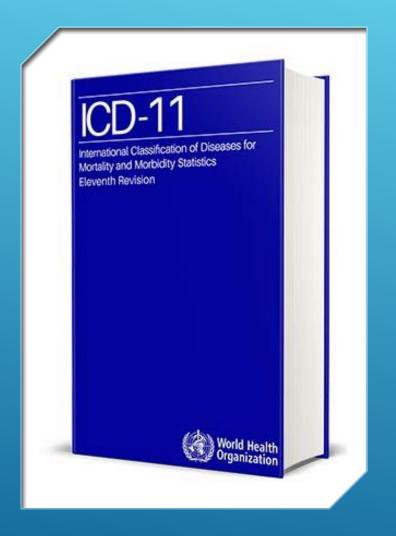


Official description of PTSD in 1980. At that time, post-traumatic stress disorder was finally adopted into the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)

هشدار : ویدیو حاوی صحنه های ناراحت کننده است. در صورتی که سابقه حضور در جبهه داشته اید از تماشای آن بپرهیزید







(WHO) International Classification of Diseases, 11thversion, (ICD-11)[5], which is due to be published in 2018 and currently under review, classified under disorders specifically associated with stress. It is grouped together along with (1) PTSD, (2) prolonged grief

disorder, (3) adjustment disorder, (4) reactive attachment disorder, (5) disinhibited social engagement disorder and others.

Complex trauma,
precipitating traumatic events
horrific, threatening, entrapping, deleterious and
generally interpersonal(prolonged domestic violence)

childhood sexual or physical abuse, torture, genocide,

Along with the victim's **inability to escape** due to multiple constraints (are social, physical, psychological, environmental or other).

slavery etc.)





Complex PTSD includes most of the core symptoms of PTSD plus affective dysregulation, adversely disrupted belief systems about oneself as being diminished and worthless, severe hardship in forming and maintaining meaningful relationships along with deep-rooted feelings of shame and guilt or failure. Its distinct characteristics added upon PTSD symptomatology, often interfere to separate it from BPD (i.e., affective dysregulation) and PTSD alone, which in cases with a chronic course will eventually transit to a lasting personality change.

Personality alteration

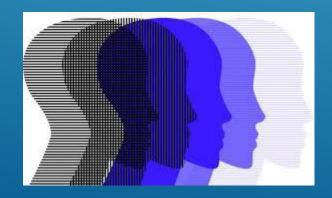
Chronic trauma is more strongly predictive of complex PTSD than PTSD alone.

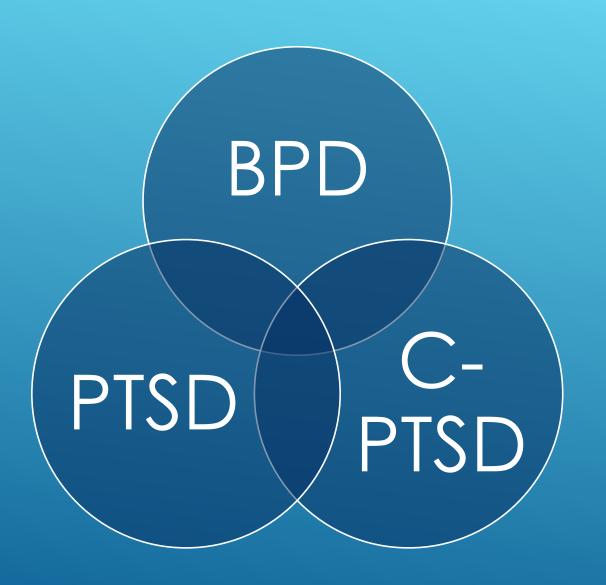
Complex PTSD is associated with a greater impairment in functioning.

Structural brain abnormalities in complex PTSD seem to be more extensive with brain activity after complex trauma being distinctive than the one seen in PTSD patients who had experienced only single trauma.

DSM-5:

cluster D of PTSD symptoms including altering in mood and cognition following the traumatic experience, as well as the dissociative PTSD subtype (i.e., depersonalisation and/or derealisation), a subtype that clinically resembles the cluster of symptoms that are commonly encountered in the complex PTSD.





- Over-diagnosed
- Ultra-rapid cycling not a diagnosis
- Focus on change in activity and mood
- Asymptomatic between episodes

BIPOLAR DISORDER

- A Personality Disorder
- Pervasive pattern of instability in interpersonal relationships,
 affect, and sense of self
- Diagnosis has stigma and has been avoided
- ▶ Has effective treatment-DBT, others

BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER

- Can follow social and/or interpersonal trauma (including captivity and entrapment)
- Trauma over time, without escape
- Reactions to sense of powerlessness-learned helplessness or learned hypervigilance
- Rage turned inward or outward
- Avoidance
- Low self-esteem
- Dissociation, but often intact core sense of self
- Less para-suicidal behavior

COMPLEX PTSD

PTSD

- One or few traumas
- Nightmares
- Avoidance of reminders
- ▶ Hypervigilance
- Exaggerated startle reflex

Complex PTSD

- Chronic inescapable traumas
- Night terrors and chronic insomnia
- Social isolation, avoidance of relationships
- Hypervigilance, pre-occupation with abuser
- ▶ No filter, easily overwhelmed

PTSD VERSUS COMPLEX PTSD

Borderline Personality Disorder

- Avoidance of abandonment
- Chaotic affect
- Poorly defined sense of self
- > Para-suicidal behaviors

Complex PTSD

- Withdrawal from relationships
- Rage/ hyper-reactive affect
- Defended sense of self
- Distorted survival strategies

BPD VERSUS COMPLEX PTSD

Case FOR C-PTSD

- Studies suggest symptoms different enough
- Provides focus on sustained developmental trauma-different etiology
- > 25% of BPD report no trauma history
- ▶ ICD II
- Treatment focus-affect regulation,
 self-esteem, anger-management, less
 on self-harm

Case AGAINST C-PTSD

- Some studies suggest etiology not different enough
- Conversation focused on etiology not symptoms
- 75% of people with BPD do have trauma history
- Studied and revisited in DSM 4 and 5
- Symptom severity spectrum
- Directs treatment setting and approach
- Lots of treatment overlap

Sources

- 1 National Institute of Health. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. 30 June 2018.
- 2 Crocq, M., et.al. From shell shock and war neurosis to posttraumatic stress disorder: a history of psychotraumatology. Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience. 2000.
- 3 Green, M. The History of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and How We Treat it. Newsweek. 23 Mar 2017.
- 4 Horwitz, T. Did Civil War Soldiers Have PTSD? Smithsonian. Jan 2018