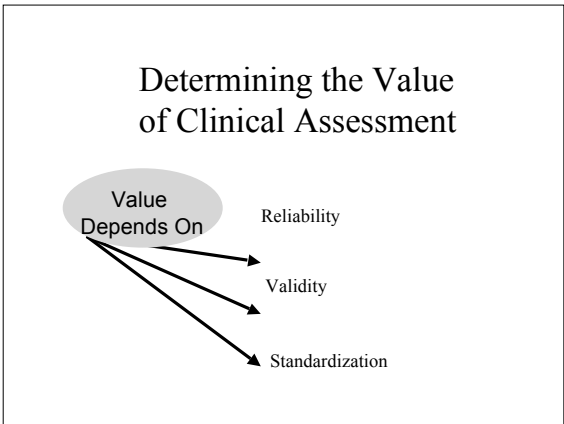


Chapter 3  
Assessing Psychological Disorders

Clinical assessment  
Diagnosis  
Assessing Psychological Disorders  
•Like a funnel



- Methods of Clinical Assessment
- Clinical Interview
  - Physical Exam
  - Behavioral Assessment
  - Psychological Testing
  - Neuropsychological Testing
  - Neuroimaging
  - Psychophysiological Assessment

- Clinical Interview
- Unstructured vs. Semistructured
  - Mental Status Exam
  - Behavioral Observation

- Mental Status Exam
- Presentation
    - Level of consciousness
    - General appearance
    - Attitude
  - Motor Behavior
  - Affect
    - Facial expression
    - Gestures
    - Speech
  - Mood

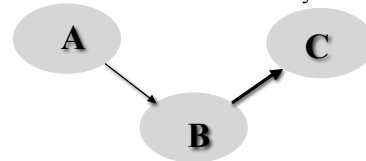
## Mental Status Exam

- Cognitive Status
  - Orientation person
  - Attention
- Language
- Thought
  - Thought content
  - Thought process
  - Insight
- Fund of knowledge
- Intelligence

## Physical Examination

### Behavioral Assessment

- Formal observation
- Self-monitoring
- Behavior Rating Scales
- Problem of Reactivity



## Psychological Testing

### Projective Tests

- Rorschach Inkblot Test
  - Hermann Rorschach
  - John Exner - 1974
- Draw a Picture
- Sentence Completion Methods

## Psychological Testing

### Projective Tests

- Thematic Apperception Test (TAT)
  - Henry Murray – 1938
- Children's Apperception Test (CAT)
  - Bellak, 1986
- Robert's Apperception Test for Children (RATC)
  - McArthur & Roberts, 1982

## Psychological Testing

### Objective Tests

- Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI, MMPI-2, MMPI-A)
- Intelligence Tests
  - Intelligence Quotient MA/CA\*100
  - Deviation IQ
  - Stanford-Binet Test
  - Wechsler Intelligence Tests

## Wechsler Scales

- Verbal Comprehension Index
  - tasks that require a subject to listen to auditorially presented verbal stimuli & provide a verbal response
- Perceptual Organization Index
  - tasks that require a subject to look at visual stimuli & manipulate them with one's hands

## Wechsler Scales

- Working Memory Index
  - Tasks that require a subject to listen to auditorially presented information involving numbers, manipulate them in one's head, & then verbalize a response
- Processing Speed Index
  - Tasks that require a subject to examine visual stimuli, strategize, perform visual-perceptual discriminations, remember the visual stimuli, & then rapidly copy symbols or mark boxes with a pencil

## Neuropsychologist

- A clinical psychologist with a specialty in the applied science of brain-behavior relationships. The neuropsychologist quantitatively & objectively evaluates patients' cognitive, behavioral, & emotional strengths & weaknesses & their relationship to normal & abnormal central nervous system functioning. The neuropsychologist uses this information to identify & diagnose impairment, & plan & implement intervention strategies.

## Neuropsychological Evaluation

- A comprehensive assessment of cognitive & behavioral functions using a set of standardized tests & procedures (e.g., WMS-III). Various mental functions are systematically tested including, but not limited to:
  - Intelligence; Academic Skills; Visual-Spatial Organization; Language; Attention, concentration, & information processing; Verbal Learning & Memory; Visual Learning & Memory; Concept formation, problem solving, planning & reasoning; Perceptual & motor abilities; Emotions, behavior & personality

## When is Neuropsychological Evaluation needed?

- It's recommended for any situation in which brain-based impairment in cognitive function or behavior is suspected. Typical referrals include individuals with:
  - Traumatic brain injury, Developmental learning disabilities, Attention deficit disorders, Strokes, Seizure disorders, Dementing conditions, Effects of toxic chemicals & chronic substance abuse

## Neuroimaging

- Images of Brain Structure
  - Computerized Axial Tomography (CT)
  - Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Images of Brain Functioning
  - Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
  - Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT)
  - fMRI

## Psychophysiological Assessment

Measurable changes in the nervous system that reflect emotional or psychological events

- Electroencephalogram (EEG)
  - Ongoing electrical activity
  - Evoked potential (aka event-related potential or ERP)
  - Waves
    - Alpha
    - Delta

## Psychophysiological Assessment

- Electrodermal responding
  - Skin conductance (was GSR)
- Heart Rate, Blood pressure, Sexual arousal
- Biofeedback

## Diagnosing Psychological Disorders

- Idiographic strategy
- Nomothetic strategy
- Nosology
- Nomenclature

## Classification Issues

- Classical or pure categorical approach (Kraepelin)
- Dimensional approach
- Prototypical approach

- Reliability
  - Interrater reliability
  - Test–retest reliability
  - Alternate form reliability
  - Internal consistency reliability
- Validity
  - Construct validity
  - Criterion (predictive) validity
  - Content validity

## •Development of the DSM

- DSM-I (1952)
- DSM-II (1968)
- DSM-III (1980)
- DSM-III-R (1987)
- DSM-IV (1994) & the ICD-10
- DSM-IV-TR (2000)
  - Text revision to clarify issues related to the dx of psych disorders

## DSM-IV: A Prototypical --Dimensional Approach

- Thresholds for Diagnosis of Disorders
- Multiaxial Format
  - Axis I: Most Major Disorders
  - Axis II: Personality Disorders / MR
  - Axis III: Medical Diseases or Conditions
  - Axis IV: Psychosocial / Environment Problems
  - Axis V: Global Assessment of Functioning
- Some Problems With the DSM-IV