



# PRAIRIE ST. JOHN'S

## Psychosis

### What are the symptoms?

- **Hallucinations—**  
Hearing or seeing things that are not there, as if your mind is playing tricks on you
- **Delusions—**  
Beliefs that are impossible or unrealistic, which other people do not believe, and being convinced that these beliefs are really true
- **Irrational Behavior—**  
Difficulty organizing thoughts and actions so that other people may have a hard time understanding what you are saying or doing

### Who can have psychosis?

Children and adolescents can have psychosis. Psychosis is not a disorder, but it is a symptom that can happen in many disorders. Some disorders, such as depression or bipolar disorder, can happen with or without psychosis. Schizophrenia always has psychosis as a symptom. Intoxication with street drugs can produce a temporary psychosis.

### What causes psychosis?

Some brain parts may be too active in psychosis. The chemical called *dopamine* (a neurotransmitter) may be overproduced in the brains of people with psychotic symptoms.

### What may happen to people who have psychosis?

Psychosis can be very brief (hours or days) or very long (years). It can happen only once or can come back many times. Some people require hospitalization to prevent harm.

### What treatments are available for psychosis?

Medications	Psychotherapy
<b>1st generation Antipsychotics</b> Trilafon (perphenazine) Haldol (haloperidol) Thorazine (chlorpromazine)	Supportive Individual Therapy Family Therapy
<b>2nd generation, or Atypical Antipsychotics</b> Abilify (aripiprazole) Seroquel (quetiapine) Geodon (ziprasidone) Risperdal (risperidone) Zyprexa (olanzapine) Clozaril (clozapine)	