

Folie a Quatre

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Introduction: Induced delusional disorder (ICD-10) / Shared psychotic disorder (DSM-IV-TR) is characterized by delusional beliefs shared between 2 or more people with a close relationship. DSM-5 no longer separates delusional disorder from shared delusional disorder.

Objectives: This case report aims to describe and discuss a case of shared delusional beliefs, providing an updated review on this disorder and other related conditions.

Methods: A psychiatric interview of a patient and a friend involved in the same delusional belief system was undertaken. A review of the literature namely in PubMed data base and Google Scholar with the key words 'Folie a deux/quatre', 'induced delusional disorder' and 'shared psychotic disorder' was also conducted.

Results: Case study of a 32-year-old woman with normal functioning assessed in the emergency room with the initial complaint of insomnia, in the context of a family conflict. During the clinical interview, grandiose delusional beliefs regarding angels and of self reference were elicited. These beliefs were found to be shared between the patient, a friend, a brother and a cousin. A clinical report and a diagnostic discussion were made, based on a bibliographic review.

Conclusions: Shared psychotic disorder is an uncommon variant of delusional disorder. Genetic and psychological factors may play an etiological role. This particular case involved 4 people, 3 family members and a close friend. Shared psychotic disorder is a diagnosis in transition, this report allows an update on changes brought in by DSM-5.