

Clinical Image

Title: Confusing and Interesting Feature of Hallucination as Reflex Hallucination in Multiple Modalities; a Clinical Image

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Figure 1: The patient's perceptions and feelings (The picture by Mr. Jalal Abedi).

A 41 year old Iranian woman with 3 sisters and 5 brothers is the 7th child of the family. She has got married 18 years ago and now has 2 daughters. At the first year of marriage, her family relation with her husband was very good, but a little after that, problems developed. Although she had a great reliance on her husband, but always felt lack of affection by her husband and it bothered her.

One year ago, she involved in conditions of depression including: extreme physical exhaustion, crying, fear of taking responsibility for daily living such as cooking and ..., disinterested and disenjoyment. She always thought suicide by cutting a vessel, but because of religious beliefs, she never did this.

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She visited a psychiatrist and used drugs about 9-10 months. She remind nortriptyline but not it's exact dose. By using drugs, her condition became better, but stopped taking them, because she did not have a good belief on psychiatric drugs.

Some symptoms emerged 3 months after stopping using medicine. She says:

One day, I was sitting near our garden. I saw a bird sitting on a tree's leaves and it's beak was open because of the hot weather. Suddenly, I sensed bird's feathers on my body and it's feeling because of the heat.

Another one, when a child was taking milk from mother's breast, I exactly felt flavor of milk, touching breast tissue and even differences of it between young mother and older one.

When my daughter's finger cut, I felt the sense of irritation and weakness she had at that time. When our house hold "Love bird" was cleaning it's feathers with its back, I felt as if something was touching my body.

Now, there is some time past that she feels disinterested and disenjoyment again, so that nothing makes her glade. Her concentration is diminished. She forgot things and gazes for periods of time.

She was asked of her dreams and she said that nearly about 1 month she had dreamed she is overcoming the gravity and suspending in the air. Sometimes she wanted to try it in consciousness.

When she was asked about her experiences she says: all of them were interesting except raising my hand (Figure 1).

Physical disease: hypothyroidism had been diagnosed with her from 3 years past. However, she stopped using thyroid drugs from 2.5 months beforehand, but she was using them when the signs appeared. She didn't have addiction and mental problem history in herself and her family. Her husband smokes.

The characteristic of hallucinations includes: Substantial, clear, constant, vivid, true and independent of will.

In this case, a real sensory stimulus is precipitator and corresponding for misperception in same modality. This symptom is interesting and rare. It should discriminate from pseudo-hallucination, imaginary, obsessional thought, cenesthetic hallucination and extra campaign hallucination. In reflex hallucination, a sensory stimulus in any other sensory organ is co-responded for misperception. The experiences about self and others can be interesting, fearful, odd or punishing for patient.