

Vignette 1: Mike (Attenuated Psychosis Syndrome)

Mike was a 17-year old male currently enrolled in his fifth year of secondary school. His uncle had schizophrenia. Mike reported hearing a soft, whispering voice 1-2 times per week since last year. He was unsure where the voice was coming from, but was distressed by it. He had idea that he was being talked about by others but he was able to dismiss it. His school performance also dramatically deteriorated from A to low C grades. Mike had no history of alcohol or drug use. His doctor told him that people who are at high risk for psychosis have not yet developed a full psychotic disorder but have some symptoms that might lead to a future psychotic disorder. However, only 35% of these individuals will go on to exhibit psychosis within 2.5 years of high-risk identification.

Vignette 2: Mary (Schizophrenia)

Mary was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Up until a year ago, life was pretty okay for Mary. But then things started to change. She thought that people around her were making disapproving comments, and talking behind her back. Mary was convinced that people were spying on her and that they could hear what she was thinking. Mary lost her drive to participate in her usual work and family activities and retreated to her home, eventually spending most of her time on her own. Mary became so preoccupied with what she was thinking that she skipped meals and stopped bathing regularly. At night, when everyone else was sleeping, she was walking back and forth at home. Mary was hearing voices even though no one else was around. These voices told her what to do and what to think. She has been living this way for 6 months.

Vignette 3: John (Depression)

John was diagnosed with depression. For the last several weeks, John had been feeling really down. He woke up in the morning with a sad mood and a heavy feeling that stuck with him all day long. He wasn't enjoying things the way he normally would. In fact nothing gave him pleasure. Even when good things happened, they didn't seem to make John happy. The smallest tasks were difficult to accomplish. He found it hard to concentrate on anything. He felt out of energy, out of steam, and could not do things he used to do. And even though John feels tired, when night came he couldn't go to sleep. John felt pretty worthless, very discouraged and guilty. John's family had noticed that he had lost appetite and weight. He had pulled away from them and just didn't feel like talking.

Vignette 4: Ben (Psychotic-like Experiences)

Ben is an 18-year old male, currently enrolled in his final year of secondary school. His grandfather passed away due to old age last week. Ben reported hearing his grandfather's voice twice over the past week. Ben was known as a consistently good and outgoing student and was well-liked by his peers. He maintained a positive outlook even when difficult situations arose. Ben had a close relationship with his grandfather. Ben has no history of alcohol or drug use.