

# **Somatoform Disorders, Factitious Disorder and Malingering**

## **APM Resident Education Curriculum**

Thomas W. Heinrich, MD, FAPM  
Chief, Psychiatric Consult Service at Froedtert Hospital  
Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine  
Medical College of Wisconsin



**Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine**  
*The Organization for Consultation and Liaison Psychiatry*

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## Somatoform Disorders

- Medically unexplained physical symptoms (MUPS)
  - Physical symptoms that prompt the suffer to seek health care but remain unexplained after an appropriate evaluation (Richardson and Engel, 2004)

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Richardson RD, Engel CC . Evaluation and management of medically unexplained physical symptoms. Neurologist. 2004 ;10(1):18-30.

## Somatoform Disorders

- MUPS – One syndrome or many?
  - Some authors have suggested that the precise diagnosis given depends more on the diagnosing physician's specialty than on any actual differences between the syndromes
  - Categorization
    - Psychiatric
    - Hypothetical syndromes based on diagnostic criteria

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Richardson RD, Engel CC . Evaluation and management of medically unexplained physical symptoms. *Neurologist*. 2004;10(1):18-30.

# Somatoform Disorders

- MUPS – One syndrome or many?
  - Internal Medicine
    - Chronic fatigue
  - Gynecology
    - Chronic pelvic pain
  - ENT
    - Idiopathic tinnitus
  - Dentistry
    - Temporomandibular dysfunction
  - Rheumatology
    - Fibromyalgia
  - GI
    - Irritable bowel syndrome
  - Neurology
    - Nonepileptic seizures

## Somatoform Disorders

- MUPS – Consequences
  - Impaired physician-patient relationship
    - Physician frustration
      - 1/6 primary care visits are considered “difficult”
        - » Hahn, 2001
      - “Dose-response” relationship between symptoms and physician frustration
        - » 0-1 symptom → 6% difficult
        - » 2-5 symptoms → 13% difficult
        - » 6-9 symptoms → 23% difficult
        - » 10 or more symptoms → 36% difficult
    - Patient dissatisfaction

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Hahn SR. Physical symptoms and physician-experienced difficulty in the physician-patient relationship. *Ann Intern Med.* 2001;134(9 Pt 2):897-904.

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