



# NOTES

## FACTITIOUS DISORDERS

### MUNCHAUSEN SYNDROME

[osms.it/munchausen-syndrome](https://osms.it/munchausen-syndrome)

#### **PATHOLOGY & CAUSES**

- Fabricating/exaggerating physical/psychological symptoms in oneself/another
- Both types motivated by desire for sympathy/attention

#### **TYPES**

##### **Munchausen syndrome**

- Faking/exaggerating symptoms in oneself
  - AKA factitious disorder

##### **Munchausen syndrome by proxy**

- Purposefully inducing symptoms in another (e.g. a child, elder, family member, pet)
  - AKA factitious disorder by proxy/factitious disorder imposed on another

#### **CAUSES**

- High comorbidity with mood/personality disorders

#### **SIGNS & SYMPTOMS**

##### **Munchausen syndrome**

- Feigned symptoms

##### **Munchausen syndrome by proxy**

- Purposefully inducing symptoms in another
- High level of perceived interest in victim/victim's condition (if applicable)

##### **Both types**

- Limited but highly-relevant medical knowledge

#### **DIAGNOSIS**

##### **Munchausen syndrome**

- Fabricating/exaggerating physical/psychological symptoms
- Seeks self to be treated as ill/impaired/injured

##### **Munchausen syndrome by proxy**

- Purposefully inducing symptoms in another
- Seeks victim to be treated as ill/impaired/injured
- Diagnosis for perpetrator, not victim

##### **Both**

- Behavior occurs even without obvious rewards (e.g. insurance claim)
- Not caused by other condition
- Can occur once, multiple times

#### **TREATMENT**

##### **PSYCHOTHERAPY**

- Various psychotherapy methods

##### **Munchausen syndrome by proxy**

- Family therapy helpful
- Separate perpetrator, victim
- Treat victim for induced illness/injury/emotional trauma