

Cotard's Syndrome

Cotard's syndrome, also known as Walking Corpse syndrome, is a rare psychiatric disorder characterized by the belief that one is dead, does not exist, or is decaying. It is often associated with severe depression and a nihilistic delusion.

Symptoms and presentation:

- Delusions of negation (e.g., belief that one does not exist, is dead, or does not have a body part)
- Anhedonia (inability to feel pleasure)
- Apathy
- Social withdrawal
- Anorexia and weight loss

The causes of Cotard's syndrome are not well understood, but it is thought to result from a combination of biological, psychological, and social factors. Neurological research suggests that the disorder is related to dysfunction in the brain regions responsible for processing emotions, self-awareness, and reality testing.

Neurological basis:

1. Cotard's syndrome has been linked to abnormalities in the brain regions involved in processing emotions, including the frontal lobe, the anterior cingulate cortex, and the insula.
2. Studies using functional neuroimaging have found reduced activity in these regions in patients with Cotard's syndrome, suggesting that these areas are involved in the development of the disorder.
3. Additionally, research has also indicated an involvement of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis and the immune system in the pathogenesis of Cotard's syndrome, implying a possible relationship between stress and inflammation.

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