

THIGPEN & CLECKLEY (1954) MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER

Background learning;

- Symptoms of MPD
- Causes of MPD
- Investigation & treatment of MPD



Introduction:

Q. How changeable is personality? Does it stay the same throughout your life time?

– Rate yourself from 1 – 10 on the following:

- confidence
- friendliness
- seriousness
- sensitivity/caring

At 5yrs, 10yrs, now

Q. How constant is personality? Consider your behaviour at;

18th birthday party, school, an interview, at work, shopping with friends, etc.

Multiple Personality Disorder – very controversial psychological condition; does it really exist?

- Now known as DID; **Dissociative Identity Disorder**
- **Dissociation** = lack of connection in thoughts, memories, feelings, actions, or identity
- In DID aspects of personality are split into ‘ego states’ called *alters*
- **Alters** can be primary or subordinate, & can be different sexes, ages, & personality type. Usually one dominates, & often *alters* are unaware of each other.

SYMPTOMS;

- depression & mood swings
- amnesia & blackouts
- sleep disorders
- panic attacks
- may hear voices of 'alters'

CAUSES;

- Severe trauma in childhood (eg, extreme & repeated sexual or physical abuse)
- Individual may dissociate as a form of 'mental escape'
- Splitting of personality from conscious awareness - powerful defence against emotional pain



TREATMENT & INVESTIGATION

- Treatment involves acknowledging **alters** (hypnosis), and encouraging patient to deal with earlier traumas & change beliefs.
- Diagnosis controversial (demand char.)
- T & C (1954) used a number of tests;
 - **EEG recordings**
 - **Intelligence tests**
 - **Weschler memory scales**
 - **Rorschach tests**
 - **Hypnosis & therapy**

* Quantitative & qualitative data.

