

CHAPTER 13: SOMATIC SYMPTOM DISORDERS CLINICAL ISSUES

- How do you differentiate genuine somatic symptom disorders from faked responses or malingering?
- Is it possible to differentiate those with genuine somatic symptom disorders from those with genuine or developing neurological or medical problems?
- Because somatic symptom disorders are highly comorbid with other psychiatric diagnoses, are somatic symptom disorders simply one symptom of broader ranging psychological problems?
- Individuals with somatic symptom disorders strongly believe that their symptoms are medical in nature – what implications does this have for successful psychological treatment?
- Is comorbid anxiety and depression a cause or a consequence of developing somatic symptom disorders? What implications does this question have for successful treatment of somatoform symptoms?
- Is there too much overlap between the diagnostic criteria for different somatic symptom disorders in DSM-5?
- Is CBT an effective treatment for somatic symptom disorders, and will new 'third' wave CNT techniques such as mindfulness-based cognitive therapy prove to be useful in dealing with somatic symptoms?