Class notes PSY 3405-D931: 3/25/15

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Chapter 8: HIV and AIDS

* What is the psychosocial perspective in HIV testing and treatment?
* How well will treatment or drug work on a patient?

Reasons why people don’t get tested for HIV

* No sign or symptoms of illness
* Type A personality, always moving, goes nonstop got check checked out or testing
* Type D personality already thinking they’re infected & dying from the disease

Elisa test- old HIV test, two weeks wait for results

Rapid HIV testing – swab of the cheek or gums, 20 minutes for results

Benefits:

- less stress and anxiety,

- eliminated the option of not coming back for results due to fear.

Either test does not affect survival rate, the key is early testing and treatment.

At home personal HIV test- results are personal, downside, may influence action or spur patient into keeping it a secret.

Testing at facility- if positive, there are social workers at side and counseling and guidance can begin immediately for a positive pt. counseling would consist of safe sex practices, proposed future health behavior to protect themselves and others.

Post- test Counseling

* Priority is to get pt to retest
* Retesting is standard in the US, not so in most underdeveloped nations.
* Condoms are readily available in US, no always the case, extremely expensive and taboo in some nations.

Comorbidities affect the disease process and cause the decline of pt’s with HIV due to destruction of the bodies’ defense system.

There are different strands of HIV- reason why cocktails of drugs are used for treatment, to combat different strains.

Pt’s with HIV should not have unprotected sex because they can contract new viral strains from partners and cause further decline in their system.

Counseling reduces the spread of HIV by:

- raising awareness to the problem

- changing behaviors of promiscuity, and unsafe sex

- changing attitudes towards testing, and removing sigma of disease

- Helping people to cope with shame and denial

Antiviral meds reduce spread of HIV by:

-reducing viral loads resulting in lower possibility of transmission

HiV testing- test for antibodies, the pt immune system response to the HIV virus

Poverty as well as wealth complicates HIV treatment:

* Poverty due to the lack of resources and access to proper medical care
* Wealth- more to lose by admitting positive status, don’t want to be treated differently or lose status in society.