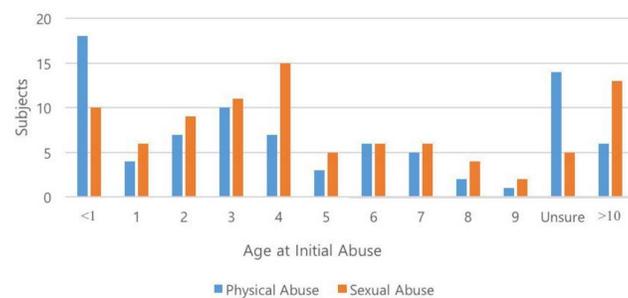


Dissociative Identity Disorder:

- Mental health condition affecting 0.01% to 1% of the population, characterized by the presence of +2 distinct personalities
- Various identities control the behavior of the afflicted individual, with etiology able to be traced through the multipath model
- Disorder typically as a result of severe childhood trauma
 - Sexual abuse
 - Physical abuse
 - Emotional abuse
- Childhood adaptation is the fundamental core of DID, created by a fragmentation in one's psyche
- Repeated or chronic trauma results in further fragmentations (additional personalities)
- Difficulty in diagnosing, as individuals are typically unaware of their symptoms
- Medical treatments are limited, however, alters suffering from alternative diagnoses have been successfully treated of their symptoms
 - Depression
 - Anxiety disorders
 - Bipolar disorder
- Intensive trauma work in the form of therapy and counseling aids in the healing process

Frequency Distribution of Age at Initial Abuse in Patients with MPD



Biological Etiology:

- Brain activation pattern differences between alternative personalities
- Volume reduction in both the amygdala and th hippocampus
- Involvement of the temporal lobe
- Neural memory inhibition

Psychological Etiology:

- Ability to dissociate
- Exposure to stress or trauma
- Increased hypnotizability or suggestibility
- Inability to cope with stress

Social Etiology:

- Child abuse or trauma
- Lack of social support
- Mislabeled dissociative experiences
- Iatrogenic therapist effects

Sociocultural Etiology:

- Media portrayal of dissociative disorders
- Role enactment
- Gender factors; much more prevalent in women

Case Study: Encina Severas

- Diagnosed with DID, aged 22
- Result of sexual abuse via father and his friends
- 11 split personalities
 - 5 primary alters (regular personalities)
 - Minnie; 3 year old girl
 - Devon; 26 years old, Minnie's caretaker
 - Allura; fairy
 - Quinn; twin to Quinton
 - Quinton; gender fluid



References:

- Herman, Judith Lewis. Trauma and Recovery (1992). Basic Books. Kindle Edition.
- Sue, David; Sue, Derald Wing; Sue, Diane M.; Sue, Stanley. Essentials of Understanding Abnormal Behavior (2014). Cengage Learning. Kindle Edition.

"Repeated trauma in adult life erodes the structure of the personality already formed, but repeated trauma in childhood forms and deforms the personality."
(Herman, 1992)