

IPWSO MENTAL HEALTH ECHO



IPWSO Mental Health ECHO Summary May 30, 2023: Behaviours of concern and mental ill-health in Prader-Willi syndrome

IPWSO presented our 3rd Mental Health in Prader-Willi syndrome ECHO on the 30th of May, 2023. At this ECHO meeting the aim was to explore such questions as:

- What are the core components of the neuropsychiatric phenotype of PWS?
- What terminology should be used and how are each aspect of the phenotype defined?
- How can our understanding of the above inform interventions and build on an individual's strengths.

Janice Forster, Board Certified General and Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in private practice in Pittsburgh PA, USA, presented "**Behavioural phenotype, psychiatric diagnosis, and a model for intervention**"

The learning objectives for this presentation were:

1. To describe the developmental onset and longitudinal course of phenotypic behaviours;
2. To identify psychiatric symptoms as distinct from phenotypic behaviour and response to stress;
3. To discuss an algorithm for intervention highlighting
 - eco-environmental modification,
 - strategies for improving coping skills,
 - use of behaviour therapy, and
 - management with psychotropic medication.

Christian Eberlein, Adult Psychiatrist and Head of the special outpatient clinic for mental health in rare syndromes, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany, presented a Case Presentation exploring "**Psychosis in Prader-Willi Syndrome**"

The discussion explored:

- How does psychosis in PWS differ from e.g. schizophrenic psychosis?
- Are these really always psychoses, or rather do we see the expression of an overload reaction?
- What is the benefit of antipsychotic in PWS associated psychoses?

Reflections on both presentations can be heard in the video summary linked below.

Video links

Janice Forster: [Behavioural phenotype, psychiatric diagnosis, and a model for intervention](#)

Christian Eberlein: [Case Presentation: Psychosis in Prader-Willi Syndrome?](#)

Tony Holland: [IPWSO Mental Health ECHO Summary May 30, 2023](#)

Upcoming Mental Health ECHO sessions

June 27	The design of services to meet the behavioural and mental health needs of children and adults with PWS	Louise Gallagher PhD, Chief, Child and Youth Mental Health Collaborative, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada Maximilian Deest, Psychiatrist, Hannover Medical School, Germany
	Case presentation	Tony Holland, President of IPWSO, University of Cambridge, UK
July 25	The application of psychological models in the understanding of adaptive and maladaptive behaviours in people with PWS	Norbert Hödebeck-Stuntebeck, PhD, Psychologist, PWS-InterNational, Germany Kasey Bedard, BCBA, University of Florida, USA
	Challenge: Putting psychological interventions into practice	Marguerite Hughes, CEO, IPWSO
September 26	Early intervention for children with PWS	Anastasia Dimitropolis, Professor of Psychology, Case Western Reserve University, USA Kate Woodcock, Reader in Applied Clinical Psychology, University of Birmingham, UK
	Challenge: Early intervention in practice	Karin Clarke, Chairperson PWS Support Group, South Africa

Thank you very much to everyone who attended the session and participated. We look forward to seeing you again at the next session on 27 June.