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Flight of Ideas

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Definition

Overabundance of ideas with only superficial connections. Evidenced by a flow of speech moving rapidly from one idea to another such that one thought is not carried through to completion before another takes its place. The logical sequence of thought is generally preserved, but ideas may become linked by distracting verbal cues such as clang associations or plays on words. In severe cases, speech may present as incoherent or disorganized. Most frequently occurs during a manic or hypomanic episode.

May occur during the course of a schizophrenic illness or other psychotic disorder.

See Also

- ▶ [Bipolar I Disorder](#)
- ▶ [Bipolar II Disorder](#)
- ▶ [Manic Episode](#)

References and Readings

- American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders: DSM-5*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association.
- Sadock, B. J., & Sadock, V. A. (2007). *Kaplan & Sadock's synopsis of psychiatry: Behavioral sciences/clinical psychiatry* (10th ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.