

Things that should make us think of psychosis in an adolescent without speech

1. A marked change in biological functions including sleep, activity level or appetite which is sustained and enduring.

This is non-specific for any of the major psychiatric disorders such as bipolar disorder, major depression or schizophrenia

2. A marked change in normal level of happiness or proneness to distress which is enduring and not associated with infections, injury or other sources of distress, such as blocked ears, constipation or anal fissures.

3. A failure to be comforted by the normal means which is enduring and beyond anything previously encountered.

4. Unexplained fear, loss of speech, internal preoccupation, aggression and self-harm which is a change from previous functioning, enduring and severe and which is not explained by experiences of trauma or changed family circumstances.

5. Failure of previously effective medicine - despite increase in doses for size and change of symptoms.

6. A sudden increase in masturbation which is distressing and ineffective to provide release of tension and may be associated with self-injury.