

Understanding the Complexities of Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for Children and Young People

Friday 13th July
Dr Margaret DeJong

Assessment of Complex PTSD and medication issues

This talk will focus on the assessment of children with Complex PTSD, primarily in the maltreated population. The aetiology here is potentially quite diverse, to include genetic and in utero effects as well as effects of social adversity. Assessments must be rigorous and wide-ranging, looking closely at developmental issues as well as symptoms meeting criteria for a psychiatric disorder. There can be particular difficulties in distinguishing neurodevelopmental disorders from trauma-related symptoms. The talk will also describe indications for the use of medication, as an adjunct to therapy. The concept of an 'ecophenotype', or a differential response to medication in individuals exposed to early and severe psychological trauma, will be introduced.