

# Judgement and Insight

## JUDGEMENT

It is an act of comparing and evaluating a proper course of action. It includes the concepts of ethical values and insight in its meaning.

**Social judgement:** Here the patients interaction pattern with other social members and the interviewer is assessed. Usually assessed from the history, given by relatives.

**Personal judgement:** The Individual's personal expectations/plans/attitudes are assessed.

**Test judgement:** This aims at testing the course of action that a person might take in a socially difficult or disastrous situation.

*Examples:* What will you do if there is a fire or a stampede?

Conditions of impaired judgement

### Organic

Organic Brain damage  
Drug intoxication  
Withdrawal  
Dementia

### Functional

Anxiety state  
Group pressure  
Mania  
Schizophrenia

## INSIGHT

**Definition:** It is the personal ability to comprehend the cause of a particular problem. In connection to psychiatric disorders it is the understanding of the psychodynamics of a particular phenomenon.

*Examples:*

**Intellectual insight:** It is the presence of knowledge regarding the particular situation or problem but that knowledge is not utilised to the benefit of the patient.

*Examples:* A drug addict knowing fully the bad consequences of his act cannot quit drinking.

**Emotional insight:** It is the deeper level of understanding of the problem with due motivation to bring up a positive change in ones behaviour or personality.

### Condition of impaired insight:

1. Complete denial —

#### Organic

Organic psychoses  
Dementia  
Delirium

#### Functional

Schizophrenia Mania  
Depression  
Delusional state  
Anosognosia

2. Slight awareness of being sick but denying at the same time: Resolution phase of delusion or psychoses or personality disorder.

Awareness of being sick but blaming it on external factors. Reactive psychosis/neuroses

- Resolution of paranoid disorders.
- Personality disorder (later age)

3. Awareness that illness is due to something unknown to the patient.

- Neurotic disorders
- Resolution phase of psychoses
- Personality disorder (later age)

**Psychogenic fugue:** Here the patient is unable to recall the majority periods of their life. They refuse to discuss their personal identity. They keep on roaming here and there with a new identity.

*Conditions:* Associated with alcoholism

Epilepsy

Severe depression

**Multiple personality:** This is the sudden alteration of at least two different sets of behaviour in a single person each of which is forgotten when the other is present.

The individual personalities might have different illnesses.

*Example:* 'Cybil' or 'Three faces of the Eve' are the books describing such phenomena in detail.

*Condition:* May be associated with schizophrenia or TLE.

**Anosognosia:** This is the inability to recognize that one is ill. It may be a part of the psychotic process where the insight into the illness is lost.

- It has been viewed as an abnormal illness – behaviour where the patient does not accept his/her illness

Left side more affected than right side.

*Conditions:* — Acute hemiplegia (early days)

- Denial of blindness (Anton's syndrome)