

Opinion

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# Shell Shock; War-Neurosis During World War I

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## Opinion

During the First World War, cases of nervous and mental shock began to arrive in England National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, in Queen Square, London, which was the Britain's leading centre for neurology. "Shell shock" is the term used to address the functional paralyses following shell explosions during warfare. The proximity to explosions in the battlefield was seen as the decisive causative factor for this disorder [1]. These disorders presumed sundry forms and were often tough to differentiate from those instigated by lesions in brain. They include severe or chronic cases of functional neurological disorders that commonly presents as motor syndromes (loss of function or hyperkinesias), every so often united with somato-sensory loss. Psychogenic seizures, anxiety and depression were also reported. These patients also complained of vegetative symptoms such as dizziness palpitations and sweating [2].

## Symptoms of shell shock

Motor disturbances and somatosensory disturbance, Speech such as paralyses of arms or legs, combined with numbness or an altered sensation in the affected area of the body, functional gait disturbances. Involuntary movements such as shaking, tics, functional tremor along with neurosis like choreatic movement (eg;

dog chorea) pseudo-seizures, disturbances like aphonia, stutter etc. Visual disturbances such as blindness, diplopia etc. Deafness, Anxiety, depression, dissociative states. Catatonic symptoms, pain and autonomic dysfunctions such as palpitations, shortness of breath, fainting, pericardial pressure, nausea, diarrhoea, bloating incontinence of urine and urgency.

## Conclusion

Research in this field is essential to assess the psychological impact of war-fare on the soldier's mind and its effect on the war-veteren's life thereafter.

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## Conflict of Interest

No conflict of Interest

## References

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