Causes clinically significant distress or impairment

Specifiers

Specify symptom type:
- With weakness or paralysis
- With abnormal movement
- With swallowing symptoms
- With speech symptoms
- With attacks or seizures
- With anesthesia or sensory loss
- With special sensory symptom (visual, olfactory, hearing disturbance)
- With mixed symptoms

Specify if:
- Acute episode: < 6 months
- Persistent episode > 6 months

Specify if:
- W/ psychological stressor (specify stressor)
  - Previously, but no longer required for diagnosis
- W/o psychological stressor

General

Often difficult to diagnose

How do you know symptoms are not the cause of some undetected neurological/medical illness?
- May look to oddities in symptom manifestation/clinical picture
  - Glove anesthesia: numbness begins at wrist and goes out evenly to fingertips; pattern of insensitivity in shape of glove
    - Inconsistent w/pattern of real neurological damage, which is rarely as abrupt or as evenly spread out
  - Paraplegia: paralysis from waist down caused by damage to spinal cord; legs atrophy
    - Legs muscles in conversion disorder paralysis do not atrophy
  - Conversion disorder blindness: fewer accidents than organically blind
    - Some vision even if unaware of it; pupils constrict in response to bright light

Don't consciously want or purposely produce symptoms
- Believe problems are genuinely medical