

# Psychiatric Comorbidities and Cognitive Dysfunction in Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Liana Brooks\*

Division of Cognitive and Behavioral Science, Pacific University for Psychology, California, USA

## Introduction

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a debilitating psychiatric condition that arises following exposure to traumatic events. Beyond its hallmark symptoms—intrusive memories, hyperarousal, avoidance, and negative mood—PTSD frequently co-occurs with other psychiatric disorders and is often associated with cognitive dysfunction. These comorbidities and cognitive impairments not only complicate diagnosis and treatment but also significantly affect the quality of life and daily functioning of individuals with PTSD [1, 2, 3, 4, 5].

Common psychiatric comorbidities in PTSD include depression, anxiety disorders, and substance use disorders. These conditions can mask or amplify PTSD symptoms, creating a complex clinical picture. For instance, depression can exacerbate emotional numbness, while anxiety may heighten hypervigilance. Substance use, often a coping mechanism, can lead to poor treatment adherence and worsened outcomes [6, 7, 8].

Cognitive dysfunction in PTSD typically affects attention, working memory, and executive functioning [9, 10]. Neurobiological studies suggest that changes in the hippocampus, amygdala, and prefrontal cortex contribute to these impairments. Such deficits hinder emotional regulation, learning, and problem-solving, thereby impairing social and occupational functioning.

## Conclusion

The interplay between psychiatric comorbidities and cognitive dysfunction in PTSD presents significant clinical challenges. A comprehensive treatment approach that addresses both the psychological and cognitive aspects is crucial for improving patient outcomes. Early intervention, cognitive rehabilitation, and integrated therapy models are vital steps toward holistic recovery in individuals living with PTSD.

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\*Correspondence to: Liana Brooks \*, Division of Cognitive and Behavioral Science, Pacific University for Psychology, California, USA. Email: l.brooks@mindsience.org

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