



GRAND ROUNDS

A Synaptic Hypothesis of PTSD: Therapeutic Implications

Presented by:

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11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Light Refreshments Served

Silver Hill Hospital Martin Center

Studies of the neurobiology and treatment of PTSD have highlighted many aspects of the pathophysiology of this disorder that might be relevant to treatment. The purpose of this presentation is to highlight the potential clinical importance of an often-neglected consequence of stress models in animals that may be relevant to PTSD: the stress-related loss of synaptic connectivity. I will discuss evidence that PTSD might be a "synaptic disconnection syndrome" and highlight the importance of this perspective for the emerging therapeutic application of ketamine as a potential rapid-acting treatment for this disorder that may work, in part, by restoring synaptic connectivity. Synaptic disconnection may contribute to the profile of PTSD symptoms that may be targeted by novel pharmacotherapeutics.

OBJECTIVES

Three Learning Objectives:

1. To learn about the relationship of stress and synaptic loss
2. To highlight evidence of synaptic loss and reduced synaptic connectivity in PTSD
3. To introduce the notion of ketamine as a treatment strategy to restore synaptic connectivity in PTSD.

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This program has been approved for Continuing Education Credit Hours by the National Association of Social Workers, CT and meets the continuing education criteria for CT Social Work Licensure renewal. Approval also meets the continuing education criteria for CT LMFTs, LPCs, and licensed psychologists.

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