PANSS Vocabulary explained

The following descriptors are used in the ‘Basis for rating’ and anchor points of the PANSS. As they are somewhat complex and subjective in meaning, the following aims to simplify and clarify their meaning in the relevant context.

DELUSIONS:
- **Kaleidoscopic array** – several rapidly changing delusions
- **Crystallised** - an elaborate delusion or hallucination which remains consistent over a long period of time
- **Systematised** - an organised system of beliefs of which an erroneous delusion forms the centre.
- **Idiosyncratic** - a characteristic, habit or mannerism that is peculiar
- **Tenaciously held** – persistent, stubborn, delusions that do not change

CONCEPTUAL DISCORGANISATION:
- **Disruption of goal-directed sequencing** – inability to undertake purposeful tasks in succession
- **Circumstantiality** – a pattern of speech that seems to wander because of excessive detail but eventually reaches its goal
- **Loose associations** - a manifestation of a thought disorder whereby the patients responses do not relate to the interviewer's questions or one paragraph, sentence, or phrase is not logically connected to those that occur before or after.
- **Tangeniality** - A disturbance in the associative thought process in which one tends to digress readily from one topic under discussion to other topics that arise through association.
- **Gross illogicality** – a lack of logical or reasoned thoughts, comments
- **Thought block** - abrupt and complete interruption in the stream of thought
- **Paralogical** – illogical, doesn’t make sense

EXCITEMENT:
- **Excessive mood lability** – mood changes e.g depression, anxiety, tearfulness etc

PASSIVE/APATHETIC SOCIAL WITHDRAWAL:
- **Anergy**- lack of energy
- **Avolition**- lack of motivation, desire and persistence

DIFFICULTY IN ABSTRACT THINKING:
- **Concrete** - Thinking characterized by a predominance of actual objects and events and the absence of concepts and generalisations
- **Abstract** - Thinking characterized by the ability to use concepts and to make and understand generalisations, such as of the properties or pattern shared by a variety of specific items or events
LACK OF SPONTENITY AND FLOW OF CONVERSATION:

Diminished fluidity – conversation does not flow smoothly

UNUSUAL THOUGHT CONTENT

What makes something go from strange/fantastic → illogical/absurd → bizarre/grotesque? Is this a continuum?

DISTURBANCE OF VOLITION – Inability of the individual to make conscious choices and decisions.

PROVERBS

Some of these are well known, but others less so. Here are the interpreted meanings according to XXXX

1. Plain as the nose on your face
2. Carrying a chip on your shoulder
3. Two heads are better than one
4. Too many cooks spoil the broth

1. Don’t judge a book by its cover
2. One man’s food is another man’s poison
3. All that glitters is not gold
4. Don’t cross a bridge until you come to it

1. What’s good for the goose is good for the gander
2. The grass always looks greener on the other side
3. Don’t keep all your eggs in one basket
4. One swallow does not make a summer

1. A stitch in time saves nine
2. A rolling stone gathers no moss
3. The acorn never falls far from the tree
4. People who live in glass houses shouldn’t throw stones