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THOUGHT DISORDERS - EVOLUTION OF HISTORICAL CONCEPTS

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Introduction: Several authors made important contributions to the evolution of psychopathological concepts that we now often gather under the topic of formal thought disorders (FTD).
Objectives: Our objectives were to describe the interpretation of concepts - including FTD and related concepts - by authors that had a major impact in the field and in defining trends nowadays.
Aims: In general we aimed to reach a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of the above mentioned.
Methods: We reviewed the literature by searching PUBMED and a library database using the terms thought and language and association and schizophrenia and course interchangeably. We used article and book references to increase our search.
Results: Throughout the years - from the first observations suggesting a primary pathology of the ability to coordinate ideas of Esquirol and Guislain to the current DSM-IV Schizophrenia criteria - and considering authors from all over the world - including Fish (UK), Kurt Goldstein, Carl Schneider, Emil Kraepelin (Germany), Eugen Bleuler (Switzerland), Jules Séglas (France), Nancy C. Andreasen (USA), Pio de Abreu (Portugal), Elie Cheniaux (Brazil), among others - terms have been given approximate meanings and different symptoms/signs have been considered to that purpose.
Conclusions: Using precise concepts of formal thought and related disorders is crucial when considering diagnostic hypothesis and passing information on to colleagues. Thus, it is of utmost importance having a better understanding of the above.

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