

Understanding Depression – What to Watch For

What are Some Signs and Symptoms of Depression?

Someone with depression may sometimes exhibit the following symptoms:

Emotional Symptoms

These symptoms are related to emotions. A depressed person may feel sad, hopeless, have little interest in things they used to and may feel overwhelmed.

- "I don't enjoy spending time with my friends anymore."
- "I'm always sad and I don't feel like myself."
- "Sometimes I don't think my life is worth living."
- "I feel guilty for dragging everyone down with me."

Physical Symptoms

The impact of depression is not always "mental," it can affect the body as well. People with depression may complain of unexplained aches and pains.

- "I feel I have no energy."
- "My appetite is gone."
- "I can't control my weight anymore."
- "Lately I've had a lot of back pain."
- "My stomach hurts."
- "I often wake up in the middle of the night and have trouble getting back to sleep."
- "My joints ache, even though I don't have any health problem like that."
- "I feel like I'm functioning in slow motion."

Behavioural Symptoms

When a person suffers from depression, they may behave differently. A person who is lively and cheerful may become slow and uninterested in what is going on around them.

- "I can't seem to get myself up off the couch."
- "I have no interest in sex."
- "I feel on edge and restless."

Cognitive Symptoms

Depression can also impair one's ability to think and reflect and can affect memory.

- "I just can't make up my mind...I can't make decisions."
- "I'm finding it really hard to concentrate."
- "I feel like I keep forgetting things."
- "I feel like I'm thinking in slow motion."
- "I feel I'm not as good at my job."

If you want more information or are concerned about yourself or a friend, please come by the Sakala Success Centre for more information and support.