BEREAVEMENT (= perdita)
Perdita di una persona per decesso

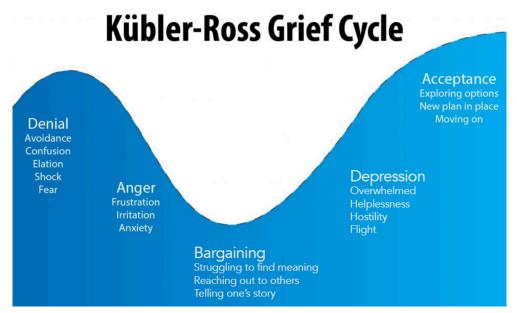
GRIEF (= pena, afflizione, dolore, lutto)
Insieme dei sentimenti e dei comportamenti legati alla perdita

MOURNING (= cordoglio, lutto) Espressioni sociali in risposta alla perdita e al cordoglio

- 1. MODELLI COMPORTAMENTALI
- 2. STRUMENTI DI SUPPORTO
- 3. PROCESSO FISIOLOGICO O PATOLOGICO?
- 4. LUTTO IN TEMPI DI COVID19
- 5. CERVELLO ED ELABORAZIONE DEL LUTTO

MODELLI COMPORTAMENTALI

Il modello a cinque FASI di Kubler-Ross (1970)



Modello a FASI e non STADI, per cui le fasi possono anche alternarsi, presentarsi piu' volte nel corso del tempo, con diverse intensita' e senza un preciso ordine, dato che le emozioni non seguono ordini particolari, ma anzi come si manifestano, cosi' svaniscono, con manifestazioni miste e sovrapposte.

Date le diversita' genetiche, epigenetiche, esperienze di vita, non tutte le persone passano da tutte le fasi.

Disorientamento, incredulita' di fronte alla perdita

NEGAZIONE/RIFIUTO

Difficolta' ad accettare la perdita.!!!! ANESTESIA!!!!

Funzione **protettiva** e normale se la perdita e' recente. "Onesta' verso i sentimenti".

Distrazione puo' alleviare il dolore, ma non aiuta a procedere nell'elaborazione emotiva della perdita.

Importante il confronto con oggetti che ricordano la persona: lasciarsi attraversare dal dolore.

Disorientamento, incredulita' di fronte alla perdita

NEGAZIONE/RIFIUTO

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Importante il confronto con oggetti che ricordano la persona: lasciarsi attraversare dal dolore.

RABBIA

Verso la persona scomparsa, se stessi, o una terza persona, Dio, il mondo, etc.

Va sperimentata (urlata) fino in fondo, Niente sensi di colpa. Ricerca di comprensione

Disorientamento, incredulita' di fronte alla perdita

NEGAZIONE/RIFIUTO

Difficolta' ad accettare la perdita.!!!! ANESTESIA!!!!

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NEGOZIAZIONE

Ricerca del senso, tentativo di riparare, senso di colpa. Importante parlare con familiari/amici etc.

DEPRESSIONE PAURA, TRISTEZZA DISPERAZIONE

Tristezza, perdita di energia, senso di impotenza.

Darsi il permesso di soffrire evitando comportamenti dannosi.

Parlare, usare mezzi creativi (creare il monumento di carta) per onorare le persone scomparse

Disorientamento, incredulita' di fronte alla perdita

NEGAZIONE/RIFIUTO

Difficolta' ad accettare la perdita.!!!! ANESTESIA!!!!

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Verso la persona scomparsa, se stessi, o una terza persona, Dio, il mondo, etc.

Va sperimentata (urlata) fino in fondo, Niente sensi di colpa. Ricerca di comprensione

INTRAPRENDERE UNA NUOVA STRADA ACCETTAZIONE

Con serenita' della perdita della persona amata. Non e' un punto di arrivo ma un processo che continua e che evolve che consente di ricercare nuove possibilita', nuovi orizzonti. E' il concedersi di essere felici

LASCIAR ANDARE

DISINVESTIMENTO

riappropiarsi di cio' che si era dato come capacita' di amare e la fiducia nel futuro

NUOVI PUNTI DI VISTA

da cui osservare la situazione

NEGOZIAZIONE

Ricerca del senso, tentativo di riparare, senso di colpa. Importante parlare con familiari/amici etc.

DEPRESSIONE PAURA, TRISTEZZA DISPERAZIONE

Tristezza, perdita di energia, senso di impotenza.

Darsi il permesso di soffrire evitando comportamenti dannosi.

Parlare, usare mezzi creativi (creare il monumento di carta) per onorare le persone scomparse

Processo biologico continuo per tutta la vita, poiche' il legame con l'oggetto perduto rimane vivo dentro di noi.

Si tratta di un legame continuato che viene visto, rivisto e ridefinito a piu' riprese.

Plasticita' del cervello

Psicologicamente, l'elaborazione del lutto consente di passare dalla definizione: "senza l'Altro io perdo la mai anima e non son piu' nessuno" a:

"grazie all'Altro ho potuto trovare e scoprire un pezzo di me che oggi posso usare e ho scoperto un modo nuovo di amare me e la persona perduta"

Cambiare il colore dei ricordi

Questo ha una fondamentale influenza sulla reale chiusura del rapporto e rappresenta il primo inizio del riappropriarsi di cose che riguardano la separazione.

In una elaborazione naturale del lutto la tristezza gradualmente si trasforma in ricordo positivo.

SINTOMI PRESENTI NELL'ELABORAZIONE DEL LUTTO

EMOTIVI

- Shock e stordimento
- Angoscia e paura
- Rabbia
- Solitudine
- Tristezza
- Disperazione
- Colpa
- Apatia

COGNITIVI

- Difficolta' a concentrarsi
- Disorientamento
- Lievi stati confusionali
- Illusioni sensoriali
- Idee transitorie di suicidio
- Pensieri ricorrenti relativi al proprio caro e alle circostanze della morte

COMPORTAMENTALI

- Pianto
- Iperattivita'
- Ricerca del proprio caro
- Visitare luoghi, conservare oggetti del proprio caro
- Disturbi del sonno
- Disturbi alimentazione
- Ritiro sociale
- Incapacita' a condurre le proprie attivita'
- Dipendenza dagli altri

SOMATICI

- Debolezza
- Senso di fatica
- Stanchezza
- Perdita di energia
- Dolori muscolari
- Cefalea
- Tachicardia
- Vertigini
- Nausea
- Alterazioni endocrine

STRUMENTI DI SUPPORTO



Rituali Supporto della famiglia e comunita' Supporto psicologico Narrazione

Esercizio fisico



La *narrazione* e' uno strumento clinico evocatore di immagini e ricordi.

Favorisce una liberazione dalle emozioni e dai sentimenti che opprimono perche' provocano rabbia, dolore e sofferenza, dando loro un nome.

La creazione di una relazione con chi accoglie la narrazione: relazione che insegna, diventa un modello e trasmette significati

ACCETTAZIONE DELLA REALTÁ DELLA PERDITA

 Confrontarsi con la realtà della perdita e superare la normale tendenza a negare l'evento morte

ELABORAZIONE DEL DOLORE DEL LUTTO

 Sperimentare il dolore e i sentimenti di depressione, isolamento, vuoto legati alla perdita del proprio caro

ADATTAMENTO AD UNA REALTÁ NELLA QUALE IL PROPRIO CONGIUTO NON C'È PIÚ

 Sviluppare nuove capacità per adattarsi ai nuovi ruoli, al nuovo senso di sé e del mondo

DARE UN NUOVO SPAZIO AL PROPRIO CARO E PROSEGUIRE NEL PROPRIO PERCORSO DI VITA

 Trovare un luogo nella propria vita interiore dove il proprio caro è presente, pensarlo con un senso di tristezza, ma non più con sentimenti di disperazione intollerabili

Le tecniche che facilitano la comunicazione

Categoria di risposta	Definizione	Valore terapeutico
ASCOLTO	processo attivo per capire	Empatia, riconoscimento, disponibilita' verso il pz.
SILENZIO	pausa senza verbalizazione	Utile per riflettere, organizzare idee da esprimere
RISPECCHIARE	rinviare al pz. le sue emozioni, idee, etc. che sta comunicando	Legittima il vissuto del pz., permette riflessione,
FOCALIZZARE	incoraggiamento a non divagare	Utile per dirigere il colloquio verso gli aspetti importanti
CLUADIDE		
CHIARIRE	Stabilire se il messaggio ricevuto coincide con quello trasmesso	Trasmette il desiderio di capire la comunicazione del pz

Le tecniche che non facilitano la comunicazione

a Definizione	Significato
Utilizzare frasi fatte o stereotipate per rassicure il pz.	Nega paure, sentimenti, significati della comunicazione del pz
Dire al pz. quel che deve o non deve fare	Nega la possibilita' al pz di condividere idee, decisioni
Approvare o disapprovare i comportamenti del pz., definire "giusto", "sbagliato"; "buono", "cattivo"	Crea dipendenza dall'operatore; soddisfa narcisismo e autoreferenzialita'. Impedisce reprocita'
Indirizzare il discorso verso un punto anziche' seguire il pz.	Genera ansia e rabbia per mancato riconoscimento
Non ascoltare o prestare attenzione al messaggio del pz	Disinteresse, negazione dell'altro. Anteporre I bisogni dell'operatore a quelli del pz.
	Utilizzare frasi fatte o stereotipate per rassicure il pz. Dire al pz. quel che deve o non deve fare Approvare o disapprovare i comportamenti del pz., definire "giusto", "sbagliato"; "buono", "cattivo" Indirizzare il discorso verso un punto anziche' seguire il pz. Non ascoltare o prestare attenzione al messaggio del

PROCESSO FISIOLOGICO O PATOLOGICO?

Elaborazione del lutto fisiologico

- Il lutto fisiologico e' un'esperienza che fa parte della vita umana e non una malattia da curare ed estirpare.
- Il lutto fisiologico e' un processo di cambiamento e una forma di adattamento che coinvolge l'esperienza di relazioni passata ed una elaborazione emotiva e cognitiva del morire e della morte.
- Il lutto fisiologico e' un'esperienza difficile attraverso cui passare, un vero e proprio momento evolutivo, che richiede molto impegno psicofisico per essere affrontato.
- Il lutto fisiologico comporta una disorganizzazione temporanea dell'individuo e del sistema familiare.

Lutto: Causa e Cambiamenti

Assenza
dell'oggetto su cui
si ha investito la
propria carica
energetica positiva
o negativa



Necessita' di elaborare l'assenza

Ricerca di un oggetto alternativo su cui investire la propria carica energetica

Lutto fisiologico

Disperazione



Rassegnazione / Nuove prospettive

Lutto "complicato" o patologico

10-25% dei casi Mancato innesco del processo di elaborazione, Mancato superamento di una o piu' fasi, Intensificazione o prolungamento eccessivi di una di esse.

Lutto complicato o patologico

differisce dal lutto fisiologico



Piu' di 12 mesi



INTENSITA'

Presenza di comportamenti patologici

Lutto "complicato" o patologico

- Depressione e tristezza che durano piu' di 12 mesi
- Fase di stordimento protratta a piu' di 2-3 settimane
- Negazione e sentimenti di colpa intensi per piu' di 6 mesi
- Senso sproporzionato di colpa che puo' essere delirante.
- Cambiamenti bruschi del comportamenti
- Idealizzazione della persona morta dopo una brutta relazione
- Abuso di sostanze, insonnia e fobie diverse
- Idee persistenti di suicidio (per stare con il defunto)

Lutto fisiologico e lutto patologico

	fisiologico	patologico
Evento perdita	Consapevolezza	A volte non evidenziabile
Reazione	Iniziale intensa, poi variabile	Intensa e persistente
Umore	Labile, tristezza, pianto aumentato dal pensare alla perdita	Persistenza di umore depresso
Rabbia	Spesso espressa	Non espressa, rivolta verso sé
Ideazione	Preoccupazione, stati confusionali e idee suicidarie transitorie	Disperazione, senso di inutilità, idee suicidarie persistenti, senso di colpa
Comportamento	Variabile,ambivalenza tra desiderio di conforto e di solitudine, ritiro dalle attività quotidiane di durata limitata	Ritiro pressochè totale, perdita di interesse per tutte o quasi le attività
Anamnesi	Assenza di disturbi psichici pregressi	Presenza frequente di altri episodi depressivi pregressi
Disturbi del sonno	Variabili e periodici	Insonnia, risveglio precoce mattutino

LUTTO IN TEMPI DI COVID19

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

COVID-19 and Unfinished Mourning

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Keywords: COVID-19; grief; mental health;

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Farahmandnia B, Hamdanieh L, Aghababaeian H. COVID-19 and unfinished mourning. Prebosp Disaster Med. 2020;00(00):1.

To the Editor,

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious respiratory disease that first emerged in Wuhan, China in December 2019. It spread rapidly to many countries in the world, and the World Health Organization (WHO; Geneva, Switzerland) declared this virus a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. As of April 10, 2020, according to Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center (Baltimore, Maryland USA), there were more than 1,603,330 confirmed cases in 185 countries, and at least 95,758 lost their lives. The number of con-

of human beings to the death of their loved ones is expressed in grief and mourning.⁴ It is known that the traditional funeral and burial are parts of the grieving process that give mourners an opportunity to express feelings and emotions about their loved ones. Improper response to grief puts them at risk of mental health disorders (ie, depression or anxiety), persistent grief, a prolonged mourning process, as well as reduced quality of life.6 A study by Eleston J (2017) showed that with the outbreak of Ebola, social psychological problems were associated with increased family grief and reduced quality of life. Since COVID-19 is highly contagious, patients are dying without their families or friends by their side. 8 As the COVID-19 pandemic evolved, large gatherings were prohibited and physical distancing was applied to contain the spread of the virus.⁵ This pandemic led to psychological crises. Lockdowns and restrictions altered the way people grieve, no manner what their culture and religion are. This limited people's ability to mourn and restricted funeral services and rituals. The safe management of dead bodies in the context of COVID-19, that was set by governments for public health and safety reasons, led the public funeral and burial processes to change. People were deprived of the most important rituals that normally occur following a death. In the absence of these ceremonies, families and friends can't stay in contact with the bereaved and express their support, caring, and love. Instead, they are left alone to deal with their overload of grief and emotional exhaustion. Indeed, a sense of profound sadness will remain in entire communities. 9 It is necessary to deal with this issue with great urgency. In the current situation, mental health providers can help people to cope with grief and to strengthen them by identifying ways to move forward. This can be achieved by providing rehabilitation programs and specialized counseling to the family and relatives of the deceased, and ensuring continuous follow-up. The social and mental support can help individuals to better understand reality, organize their lives, cope with stress, and reduce the suffering caused by the loss of loved ones, to compensate the natural mourning process.

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...It is known that the traditional funeral and burial are parts of the grieving process that give mourners an opportunity to express feelings and emotions about their loved ones.5 Improper response to grief puts them at risk of mental health disorders (ie, depression or anxiety), persistent grief, a prolonged mourning process, as well as reduced quality of life.6 ...with the outbreak of Ebola, social psychological problems were associated with increased family grief and reduced quality of life.7

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Month 2020 Prehospital and Disaster Medicine





Complicated Grief: What to Expect After the Coronavirus Pandemic

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The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the worst public health crises in a century, with an expected amount of deaths of several million worldwide and an even bigger number of bereaved people left behind. Although the consequences of this crisis are still unknown, a significant number of bereaved people will arguably develop Complicated Grief (CG) in the aftermath of this emergency. If the current pandemic is unprecedented, the grief following the coronavirus outbreak is likely to share features with grief related to natural disasters and after Intensive Care Unit (ICU) treatment. The aim of this paper is to review the most prominent literature on CG after natural disasters, as well as after diseases requiring ICU treatment. This body of evidence may be useful for helping bereaved people during the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and for drawing clinical attention to people at risk for CG.



female sex is a risk factor for CG... so PTSD...

...One of the greater issues of death in the ICU is that family members may be unable to say goodbye to their loved one, which was shown to be an independent risk factor for CG (19, 27). This is crucially important among the COVID-19 bereaved, who cannot access the ICU ...and for whom the separation from the decedent may contribute to feelings of yearning, anger, and bitterness over the death, ultimately leading to CG (27). In addition, it is likely that the COVID-19 bereaved might blame themselves for not having tried harder to see their loved one while in hospital and for not taking care of their relative's comfort and dignity during the hospital stay, ...(19, 27). For the same reasons, they could feel guilty about not being present at the time of death,

A further important issue encountered by families of people dying in the ICU and increasing the risk of CG is **the poor communication with physicians** ...

.... literature highlight that **greater levels of social support are correlated with better grief outcomes** (13, 27). COVID- 19 pandemic is a long-lasting condition, leading to durable changes ... especially in social habits. This might make COVID-19 mourners particularly vulnerable, given that **social distance** ... [is] the most important action to prevent spreading of the disease, a measure, however, that could increase the risk of unsuccessful grieving

....being prevented from holding a proper funeral for their loved ones might prevent COVID-19 mourners from gaining awareness of the reality of the death and from understanding and framing their loss, besides eliminating a significant important occasion of social support

Given that each death leaves up to 5 people grieving... (36), and that prevalence of CG is approximately 10% to 20% of bereaved people (28), the number of CG following COVID-19 deaths may virtually reach the number of overall COVID-19 deaths in the upcoming months.

Grief and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Older

TABLE 1. Examples of PGD Risk Factors Related to Death During COVID-19

Circumstances of the death

Sudden, unexpected, seemingly preventable and random deaths People dying alone

Restrictions on visiting policies of the dying family member

Context of the death

Physical distancing policies affecting funerals, burial, rituals, and support for the grievers

Unemployment worries

Feelings of unsafety

Financial insecurity

Consequences of the death

Being alone

Fear of contamination

Having others to care for

Financial worries



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iournal homepage: www.aigponline.org



Treatment in Geriatric Mental Health:

Grief and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Older Adults

Joseph S. Goveas, M.D., M. Katherine Shear, M.D.

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Key Words: Bereavement acute grief complicated grief prolonged grief disorder older adults COVID-19 novel coronavirus disease 2019 SARS-COV-2

ABSTRACT

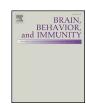
In few periods in buman bistory bave bereavement and grief been on so man people's minds as they are today. As the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) ravages the world, we have seen many perish in a short time. Many have died alone because of requirements for physical distancing. Even more will succumb as COVID-19 continues to spread. Moreover, deaths from other causes, number ing over 50 million annually, are also happening amid physical distancing and other COVID-19-related challenges. The pandemic is affecting the way terminally ill patients are being cared for, when and how people are dying of other causes, and bow bodies are being handled and bereavement rituals performed The bereaved are required to grieve without the support of usual social and cultural rituals. Grieving is further encumbered by cascading life stressors deriving from policies needed to mitigate the pandemic. Though we are often beartened by buman resilience in response to death and other bardships, for some, the burden of this pandemic will be too much. Among other mental health problems, we will likely see an increase in prolonged grief disorder. In this commentary, we review the new diagnosis of prolonged grief disorder and outline wby we might anticipate increased rates of this condition on the beels of COVID-19, especially among older persons. The authors suggest ways that might mitigate this emerging problem. (Am J Geriatr Psychiatry 2020; 28:1119-1125)



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Loss and grief amidst COVID-19: A path to adaptation and resilience



ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: COVID-19 Loss and grief Mental and physical health Loss adaptation prolonged grief disorder (PGD) ABSTRACT

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The COVID-19 pandemic has posed an extreme threat to global health and become a leading cause of death worldwide. Loss, as a more encompassing theme, interweaves many aspects of people's life in this challenging time. Failure to address the pressing needs of those experiencing loss and grief may result in poor mental and physical health. Recognizing the uniqueness of each individual and their loss and grief will provide opportunities to develop tailored strategies that facilitate functional adaptation to loss and promote mental health and wellbeing in this crisis.

Recognizing the uniqueness of each individual's loss and grief will provide opportunities to develop tailored strategies that facilitate functional adaptation to loss, and promote mental health and wellbeing in this crisis.

life, however. Losses not only involve separations from those we love, but also interweave many other aspects of our life in this crisis. Failure to address the pressing needs of individuals experiencing loss and grief may cause poor mental and physical health (Kang et al., 2020). Thus, discerning different types of loss and grief will inform the development of intervention strategies to facilitate functional adaptation to loss and promote wellbeing during the crisis.

> experience anticipatory grief. For frontline healthcare workers, the huge surge in deaths is distressing. They experience anticipatory grief and perceive discontinuation of mechanical ventilation as emotionally onerous and psychologically difficult, but having little time for mourning due to the intensifying situation. Many families experience anticipatory grief because knowing their loved ones suffering and missing out on the final moment are poignant. Moreover, the absence of ritual, such as funeral, often results in disenfranchised grief, and lacking social or cultural recognition impairs support resources that assist the grieving process. As a result of unusual prolonged and disabling grief, more individuals are at greater risk of prolonged grief disorder (PGD) in this pandemic. PGD will imperil mental and physical wellbeing conse-



Primary losses are associated with significant events such as death and major life changes. Secondary losses, as the consequences of primary losses, are often overlooked because they seem covert early on but will emerge as significant issues subsequently. Individuals who lost loved ones may face secondary losses such as losses of companionship, sexual intimacy, and family role. Those recovered from severe pneumonia caused by SARS-CoV-2 may be at higher risk of chronic cardiovascular damage (Zheng et al., 2020) which, as the primary loss, brings secondary losses such as losses of abilities and identity. Further, many cities are on lockdown. The loss of freedom can lead to secondary losses such as losses of relationship, recreation, and social support. Social distancing minimizes emotional and physical intimacy, which results in dissolution of intimate relationships involving partners, family, and friends. Moreover, over 16 million U.S. population filed for un-

ia the worta, bastry, facilitying and acveroping re lience traits, such as self-efficacy and social support, will empower grievers to adapt to disturbances in the grieving process (Vegsund et al., 2019). It is therefore crucial to help grievers recognize strengths and abilities to amplify individual resilience.

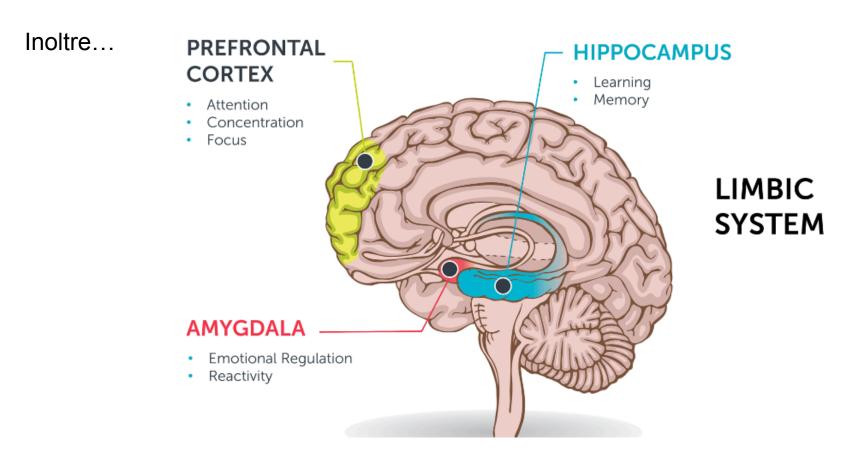
CERVELLO ED ELABORAZIONE DEL LUTTO

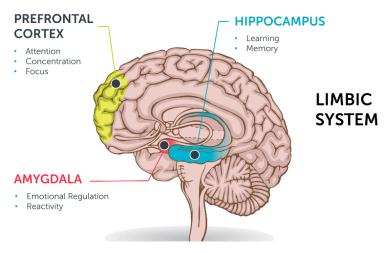
Il lutto prolungato porta a:

- riduzione generale delle funzioni cognitive
- effetto negativo su strutture cerebrali e funzionalita' dell'individuo

In particolare,

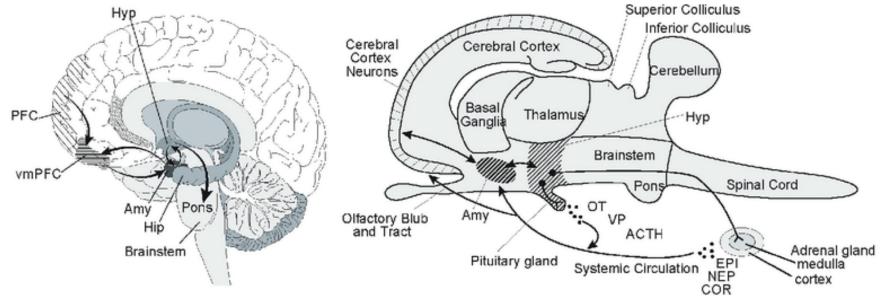
- Aumento di connettivita' fra amigdala e talamo con aree di controllo esecutivo e "salienza"
- Alterate connessioni con le strutture dell'ippocampo





Il lutto prolungato porta a:

- una riduzione generale delle funzioni cognitive
- effetto negativo sulle strutture cerebrali e sulla funzionalita' dell'individuo In particolare,
- Aumento delle connessioni dell'amigdala e talamo con aree di controllo esecutivo e di "salienza"
- Alterate connessioni con le strutture dell'ippocampo
- Alterate connessioni con il parasimpatico e ipotalamo
- Alterate connessioni nel sistema di "appagamento" (vedi dipendenza)
- Presenza di fenomeni infiammatori generalizzati e localizzati in aree cerebrali



learning processes in the brain. (B) Here is a schematic based on the generic mammalian brain to illustrate the multiple actions taken by the hypothalamus when a "Fight or Flight" response is triggered by cortical-amygdala interactions signaling high levels of risk or immediate danger, including life or death situations. Neurons in the hypothalamus terminating in the pituitary release oxytocin (OT), vasopressin (VP) and adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) into the systemic circulation. The sympathetic nervous system is fully activated via the hypothalamus, including by a direct neural projection to the adrenal medulla stimulating release of epinephrine (EPI, adrenalin) and norepinephrine (NEP, noradrenalin) into the blood stream. ACTH stimulates the release of the stress hormone cortisol (COR) from the adrenal cortex. The physiological responses include hyperarousal, focused vision, increased heart rate and blood pressure blood shunted to the muscles, and suppression of digestion and appetite

RIASSUNTO

- Modelli comportamentali a diverse fasi
- Lutto patologico persiste piu' di 12 mesi
- Narrazione come aiuto
- Situazioni legate al COVID-19 hanno incrementato la percentuale di lutti patologici
- Il lutto aumenta processi infiammatori nel cervello con effetti plastici a livello corticale e sottocorticale in aree coinvolte nella formazione di memorie nei circuiti legati alla sopravvivenza

