

## FACULTY OF NURSING

# ANOREXIA NERVOSA

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## **DEFINITION**

Anorexia nervosa is characterized by involuntary refusal to eat, significant weight loss, an intense fear of becoming over weight and pronounced disturbance of body image.

# **INCIDANCE**

• Female- 5%

• Male- 5-10%

Disorder starts by the age of 10-19 years.

## **ETIOLOGY**

- Biological factors such as disturbance in neurotransmitters in brain.
- Psychological factory such as ego development in young children.
- Family factors such as dysfunctional family.

## **CLINICAL FEATURE**

- > Extreme weight loss
- ➤ Intense fear of weight gain
- > Distorted body image, weight or shape
- ➤ Other physical features like amenorrhea for 3 months, hypothermia, muscles wasting, hypotension, dry skin, cold intolerance

## **MANAGEMNT**

- ➤ Nutritional counseling by a dietician regarding healthy eating habits and balanced diet.
- Individual therapy to correct distortions and deficits in psychological thinking.
- Family therapy to correct disturbed patterns of interaction in family.
- The antipsychotic olazapine may be helpful for weight gain.

