“Somatic Symptom Disorders: The Brain is Stronger Then You Think”

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Abstract – Introductory  
This presentation is an introductory look at somatic symptom disorders in the pediatric population through various case scenarios. As primary care providers are often the front line for identifying and treating somatic symptom disorders, this presentation will focus on identifying risk factors, management strategies and how to talk with families about the diagnosis. Functional Abdominal Pain, Functional Neurologic Symptom Disorder, Illness Anxiety Disorder, Factitious Disorder and Malingering will also be defined.

By the completion of this session, participants should be able to:
1. Identify symptoms that make up the DSM criteria for Somatic Symptom Disorders, Functional neurologic symptom, Illness Anxiety Disorder, Factitious Disorder and Malingering.
2. Utilize management strategies to address the complex medical and behavioral needs of those who suffer with somatic symptom disorders.
3. Develop a strategy for how to talk with children and their families about somatic symptom disorder.

References: