

KURT SCHNEIDER'S CLASSIFICATION OF DEPRESSION

1. DEPRESSED MOOD/ DYSPHORIA

Present, proceed to 2
Absent, stop

Possible Vital Depression
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

2. UNMOTIVATED DEPRESSED MOOD

3. UNMOTIVATED DYSPHORIA

4. SOMATIC SYMPTOMS/ VEGETATIVE MANIFESTATIONS

5. ASTHENIA

6. CORPORISATION

7. FEELING OF LOSS OF VITALITY

8. DISTURBANCE OF VITAL BALANCE

9. DECREASED APPETITE/ DECREASED SEX DRIVE/ LATE INSOMNIA

At least 2 of 8 present, proceed to 10
Less than 2 of 8 present, proceed to 15

Possible Vital Depression
Possible Reactive Depression

10. PRECIPITATING FACTOR

11. DEPRESSIVE SYNDROME IN TEMPORAL CONNECTION WITH PRECIPITATING FACTOR

12. REACTIVE MOOD CHANGES

Less than 3 present, proceed to 13
All three present, proceed to 23

Possible Vital Depression
Possible Reactive Depression

13. LIFE-LONG DURATION

Absent, proceed to 14
Present, proceed to 25

Probable Vital Depression
Possible Depressive Psychopathy

14. MANIA/ HYPOMANIA

Present, stop
Absent, stop

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER
VITAL DEPRESSION

15. PRECIPITATING FACTOR

16. DEPRESSIVE SYNDROME IN TEMPORAL

CONNECTION WITH PRECIPITATING
FACTOR

17. REACTIVE MOOD CHANGES

All three present, proceed to 18
Less than 3 present, proceed to 25

Possible Reactive Depression
Possible Depressive Psychopathy

18. HYPERSOMNIA/
INSOMNIA
19. DECREASED APPETITE/
EXCESSIVE APPETITE
20. ANXIETY
21. FEELINGS OF GUILT
22. RUMINATION

At least 2 of 5 present, proceed to 23
Less than 2 of 5 present, stop

Possible Reactive Depression
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

23. PROLONGED DURATION

Absent, proceed to 24
Present, stop

Probable Reactive Depression
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

24. MANIA/
HYPOMANIA

Present, stop
Absent, stop

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER
REACTIVE DEPRESSION

25. IMPAIRMENT OF SOCIAL ADAPTATION IN PAST

26. DISPLEASURE

27. HOSTILITY/
IRRITABILITY

28. COMPLAINTIVENESS/
SELF-PITY

At least 2 of 4 present, proceed to 29
Less than 2 of 4 present, stop

Probable Depressive Psychopathy
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

29. MANIA/
HYPOMANIA

Present, stop
Absent, stop

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER
DEPRESSIVE PSYCHOPATHY

It consists of a total number of 40 digits, based on 32 codes included in 29 variables organised into 11 decision clusters, yielding 3 diagnoses.

It is based on Kurt Schneider's *Clinical Psychopathology* (translated into English from the German original by M.W. Hamilton), published in 1959, with consideration of his paper entitled "Die Schichtung des emotionalen Lebens und der Aufbau der Depressions zustande," and his monograph on "Psychopathic Personalities" (translated into English from the German original by M.W. Hamilton), published in 1920 and 1958, respectively, in which depression is divided into vital depression, reactive depression, and depressive psychopathy. In revised CODE-DD vital depression is characterised by depressed mood (dysphoria) with unmotivated depressed mood, unmotivated dysphoria, somatic symptoms (vegetative manifestations), asthenia, corporisation, feeling of loss of vitality, disturbance of vital balance, decreased appetite (decreased sex drive, or late insomnia); reactive depression by depressed mood (dysphoria) with hypersomnia (insomnia), decreased (excessive appetite), anxiety, feeling of guilt, and rumination; and depressive psychopathy by depressed (dysphoria) with impairment of social adaptation in past, displeasure, hostility,(irritability), and complaintiveness (self-pity).

SCHNEIDER K (1959) CLINICAL PSYCHOPATHOLOGY (TRANSLATED BY MW HAMILTON). GRUNE & STATTON, NEW YORK, pp. 15-144

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Cohen Stuart MH (1965) Physical problems in relation to the vital depressive syndrome. Psychiat Neurol Neurochir 68: 181-199

Hoening J (1980) The early manifestations of depression: diagnostic hints. In: FJ Ayd, editor. Clinical Depressions: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Challenges (pp 1-21). Ayd Medical Communications, Baltimore

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VITAL DEPRESSION

REACTIVE DEPRESSION

DEPRESSIVE PSYCHOPATHY