

## THEODOR MEYNERT'S DIAGNOSIS OF SIMPLE MELANCHOLIA

### 1. DEPRESSED MOOD

Present, proceed to 2  
Absent, stop

Possible Simple Melancholia  
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

- 2. ANHEDONIA/  
APATHETIC INDIFFERENCE
- 3. DESIRE TO DIE/  
LOSS OF DESIRE TO LIVE/  
SUICIDAL TENDENCIES
- 4. DYSPHORIA
- 5. MOTOR RETARDATION/  
RETARDED THINKING/  
STUPOR
- 6. MISANTHROPY/  
WITHDRAWAL
- 7. TEARFUL

At least 2 of 6 present, proceed to 8  
Less than 2 of 6 present, stop

Probable Simple Melancholia  
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

- 8. MANIA/  
HYPOMANIA

Present, stop  
Absent, stop

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER  
SIMPLE MELANCHOLIA

It consists of a total number of 15 digits, based on 15 codes included in 8 variables organized into 3 decision clusters, yielding 1 diagnosis.

It is based on Theodor Meynert's *Lehrbuch der Psychiatrie*, published in 1884, in which simple melancholia is one of the three diseases of the category of cortical irritative processes. While Meynert gave no clear-cut definition of simple melancholia, in revised CODE-DD simple melancholia is characterized by depressed mood with anhedonia (apathetic indifference), desire to die (loss of desire to live or suicidal tendencies), dysphoria, motor retardation (retarded thinking or stupor), misanthropy (withdrawal) and tearful.

MEYNERT T (1884) *LEHRBUCH DER PSYCHIATRIE*

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