

CHAPTER 7: DEPRESSION AND MOOD DISORDERS CLINICAL ISSUES

- DSM-IV-TR requires the identification of 5 symptoms for a period of 2-weeks for a diagnosis of Major Depression. But are such people any different in their experience of depression from those who exhibit only 3 symptoms?
- What are the clinical consequences of lay people viewing depression as a 'disease' or illness?
- Should depression in response to bereavement be included as one of the criteria contributing to a diagnosis of Major Depression?
- How difficult is it to diagnose 'pure' depression when depression is so frequently comorbid with other Axis I and Axis II disorders?
- Prevalence rates for depression appear to vary significantly across different cultures. What implication does this have for diagnosing depression?
- Unlike many other psychological disorders, depression cannot easily be observed or directly measured. What implication does this have for diagnosing depression?
- How important is a GP's assessment of individuals who might present with symptoms of depression for subsequent treatment within the NICE stepped-care model?
- What are the dangers of prescribing SSRIs as a lone treatment for depression?
- Lithium carbonate is the drug of choice for treating Bipolar Disorder. What are the dangers associated with this form of treatment, and are there any acceptable and effective psychological therapies for Bipolar Disorder?
- Is there any reason why electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) be used as a treatment for depression?
- People contemplating suicide are often calm and rational, and appear to show signs of improvement in their condition. Given these misleading outward signs, is there any way to identify individuals who are seriously contemplating a suicide attempt?
- Acts of self-harm are often impulsive, carried out in secret, and denial is a common feature of those who self-harm. Given these characteristics, how can people who regularly self-harm be identified and helped?
- Should the act of deliberate self-harm be considered an activity diagnosable as a psychological disorder?