

## KARL ABRAHAM'S CRITERIA OF NEUROTIC DEPRESSION

### 1. DEPRESSED MOOD/ ANXIOUS MOOD

Present, proceed to 2  
Absent, stop

Possible Neurotic Depression  
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

### 2. FEELING OF HELPLESSNESS 3. FEELING OF LOSS OF FEELINGS 4. FEELING OF HOPELESSNESS 5. LOSS OF DESIRE TO LIVE/ SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

At least 2 of 4 present, proceed to 6  
Less than 2 of 4 present, stop

Possible Neurotic Depression  
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

### 6. PRECIPITATING FACTOR 7. DEPRESSIVE SYNDROME IN TEMPORAL CONNECTION WITH PRECIPITATING FACTOR

Both present, proceed to 8  
Less than 2 present, stop

Probable Neurotic Depression  
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

### 8. MANIA/ HYPOMANIA

Present, stop  
Absent, stop

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER  
NEUROTIC DEPRESSION

It consists of a total number of 11 digits, based on 11 codes included in 8 variables organized into 4 decision clusters, yielding 1 diagnosis.

It is based in Karl Abraham's paper entitled *Ansätze zur psychoanalytischen erforschung und behandlung des manisch-depressiven irreseins und verwandter zustände* published in *Zentralblatt für Psychoanalyse* in 1912 in which Neurotic Depression was described as depressed mood, precipitated by a factor, associated with feeling of being unloved and incapable of loving, despairs of life and future, and a tendency to deny life. In revised CODE-DD it is characterized by depressed mood (anxious mood), associated with feeling of helplessness, feeling of loss of feelings, feeling of hopelessness, loss of desire to live (or suicidal tendencies), with a temporal connection with a precipitating factor.

ABRAHAM K (1912) ANSATZE ZUR PSYCHOANALYTISCHEN ERFORSCHUNG  
UND BEHANDLUNG DES MANISCH-DEPRESSIVEN IRRESEINS UND  
VERWANDTER ZUSTANDE. J. JAHRG II (6):302-315

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NEUROTIC DEPRESSION