

WILLIAM SARGANT'S DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA OF ATYPICAL DEPRESSION

1. ANXIOUS MOOD/ DEPRESSED MOOD

Present, proceed to 2
Absent, stop

Possible Atypical Depression
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

2. ASTHENIA/ FEELING OF LOSS OF VITALITY 3. DISTURBANCE OF VITAL BALANCE 4. IRRITABILITY/ MOTOR RESTLESSNESS

All 3 present, proceed to 5
Less than 3 present, stop

Probable Atypical Depression
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

5. MANIA/ HYPOMANIA

Present, stop
Absent, stop

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER
ATYPICAL DEPRESSION

It consists of a total number of 9 digits, based on 9 codes included in 5 variables organized into 3 decision clusters, yielding 1 diagnosis.

It is based on William Sargent's paper on "Drugs in the treatment of depression," published in the *British Medical Journal* in 1961 in which atypical depression is defined as a depression with anxious-depressed mood, weakness, inability of restoration and restlessness. In revised CODE-DD it is characterized by anxious mood (depressed mood) with asthenia (feeling of loss of vitality), disturbance of vital balance, and irritability (motor restlessness).

SARGANT W (1961) DRUGS IN THE TREATMENT OF DEPRESSION. BRIT MED J 1:
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ATYPICAL DEPRESSION