

JULES COTARD'S CRITERIA OF NIHILISTIC MELANCHOLIA (DELUSIONS)

1. DEPRESSED MOOD ANXIOUS MOOD

Present, proceed to 2
Absent, stop

Possible Nihilistic Melancholia (Delusions)
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

2. AGITATION/ STUPOR

3. HYPOCHONDRIASIS

4. SELF-INCRIMINATION/ FEELING OF INADEQUACY/ FEELING OF WORTHLESSNESS/ FEELING OF GUILT

5. SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

6. DECREASED APPETITE

7. BODILY MISPERCEPTIONS

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

Possible Nihilistic Melancholia (Delusions)
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

8. NIHILISTIC DELUSIONS/ DELUSIONS OF ANNIHILATIONS

Present, proceed to 9
Absent, stop

Probable Nihilistic Melancholia (Delusions)
PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER

9. MANIA/ HYPOMANIA

Present, stop
Absent, stop

PSYCHIATRIC DISORDER
NIHILISTIC.MELANCHOLIA
(DELUSIONS)

It consists of a total number of 16 digits based on 16 codes included in 9 variables organized into 4 decision clusters, yielding 1 diagnosis.

It is based on Jules Cotard's 1880 paper *Hypochondriacal delusions in a severe form of anxious melancholia* in which he postulates that the Nihilistic melancholia (delusions) is characterized by anxiety and sadness with agitation, or stupor, hypochondriasis, suicide, disturbance of sensation, blames himself as useless, unworthy, guilty or damned, with delusion of negation or delusions of annihilation. In revised CODE-DD Nihilistic Melancholia (delusions) is characterized by Depressed mood (or anxious mood) with Agitation (or stupor), hypochondriasis, self-incrimination (or feeling

of inadequacy, feeling of worthlessness, or feeling of guilt), suicidal tendencies, decreased appetite and bodily misperceptions, with nihilistic delusions (or delusions of annihilations).

JULES COTARD. *DU DELIRE HYPOCHONDRIQUE DANS UNE FORME GRAVE DE LA MELANCHOLIE ANXIEUSE*. ANNLS MED-PSYCHOL (1880) 4 p. 168.

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