

confounding  
variable

```
graph TD; A[confounding variable] --> B[explanatory]; A --> C[response]; B -- "?" --> C;
```

The diagram illustrates a causal model with three variables. At the top is a box labeled 'confounding variable'. Two arrows point downwards from this box to two boxes below it: 'explanatory' on the left and 'response' on the right. A horizontal arrow points from the 'explanatory' box to the 'response' box, with a question mark '?' positioned above it.

explanatory

?

response