

confounding
variable

```
graph TD; CV[confounding variable] --> E[explanatory]; CV --> R[response]; E -- "?" --> R;
```

The diagram illustrates a causal relationship where a confounding variable at the top has arrows pointing down to both an explanatory variable box on the left and a response variable box on the right. A horizontal arrow points from the explanatory variable box to the response variable box, with a question mark positioned above it.

explanatory

?

response