

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 on the left and a response variable on the right. A horizontal arrow points from the explanatory variable to the response variable, with a question mark above it.

explanatory

?

response