

MDD - Dictionary of Terms

This document is a dictionary of terms for understanding the ontology of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD). Each term is accompanied by a definition based on the literature used for the creation of the ontology.

Dictionary

Additional Symptoms

refers to symptoms that are not mandatory for diagnosis but support it when present, such as fatigue or psychomotor agitation.

Anxious Distress

refers to patients feeling tense and unusually restless, with difficulty concentrating due to excessive worry or fear of losing control.

Atypical

refers to a condition where patients experience a temporary improvement in mood in response to positive events (e.g., a visit from loved ones).

Atypical Antidepressants

refers to medications with mechanisms of action distinct from other classes, used to treat depression.

Catatonic

refers to a severe condition marked by psychomotor retardation, excessive purposeless activity, or social withdrawal.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

refers to a psychotherapeutic approach that helps patients identify and change negative thought patterns and behaviors.

Contextual Factor

refers to influences external to the individual that may impact the presentation or progression of depression, such as psychosocial stressors, psychiatric comorbidity, or medical comorbidity.

Course

refers to the trajectory of the disorder, such as single or recurring episodes.

Deep Brain Stimulation

refers to a treatment involving electrical impulses delivered to specific brain areas to alleviate severe depression.

Depressed Mood

refers to a persistent feeling of sadness or hopelessness, a key symptom of depression.

Diminished Ability to Think or Concentrate

refers to difficulties in focusing or making decisions, commonly experienced in depression.

Electroconvulsive Therapy

refers to a medical procedure that uses electrical stimulation to treat severe depression unresponsive to other treatments.

Fatigue or Loss of Energy

refers to persistent tiredness or lack of physical and mental energy, common in depression.

Feelings of Worthlessness or Excessive Guilt

refers to pervasive negative self-perceptions or guilt disproportionate to reality, seen in depressive disorders.

Female Sex

refers to the increased likelihood of depression occurring in females compared to males, due to hormonal, genetic, and psychosocial factors

General Medical Disorder

refers to a physical health condition, such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease, that can increase the risk of depression.

Healthcare Professional

refers to any healthcare professional qualified to diagnose, treat, and manage medical or psychological conditions.

Herbal Treatment

refers to the use of plant-based substances, such as St. John's wort, in managing depressive symptoms.

High

refers to a severe level of symptoms in depression

Insomnia or Hypersomnia

refers to disrupted sleep patterns, either difficulty sleeping or excessive sleeping, commonly associated with depression

Interpersonal Therapy

refers to a psychotherapeutic approach focusing on improving interpersonal relationships to alleviate depressive symptoms.

Low

refers to a mild level of symptoms in depression.

Loss of Interest or Pleasure

refers to a diminished ability to enjoy activities, a core symptom of depression.

MAOIs

acronym for Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors, refers to medications that inhibit monoamine oxidase, increasing neurotransmitter levels and requiring caution due to potential

Major Depressive Disorder

It is characterized by distinct episodes lasting at least two weeks (although most episodes last considerably longer) involving significant changes in affect, cognition, and neurovegetative functions, as well as interepisode remissions

Mandatory Symptoms

refers to symptoms required for a diagnosis, such as depressed mood or loss of interest.

Medical Condition

refers to a diagnosable health disorder or disease

Medical Report

refers to a document detailing a patient's diagnosis, symptoms, and treatment plan.

Melancholic

refers to a subtype of depression characterized by the inability to experience pleasure in nearly all activities or a lack of response to usually pleasurable stimuli.

Mixed Features

refers to a subtype of depression in which patients exhibit 3 manic or hypomanic symptoms.

Moderate

refers to a medium level of symptoms in depression.

Other Treatment

refers to less common approaches to managing depression, such as herbal remedies or alternative therapies

Patient

refers to any individual receiving care or treatment for physical or mental health.

Peripartum Onset

refers to depression beginning during pregnancy or within four weeks after delivery, possibly involving psychotic features.

Pharmacological

refers to treatments involving medications for managing depression.

Phototherapy

refers to a treatment using light exposure, particularly effective for seasonal depression

Prescription

refers to a treatment using light exposure, particularly effective for seasonal depression

Psychiatric Comorbidity

refers to a coexisting mental health condition, such as anxiety or substance use disorder, that can influence the presentation or treatment of depression.

Psychodynamic Therapy

refers to a therapeutic approach exploring unconscious processes and past experiences to alleviate depressive symptoms.

Psychosocial Stressor

refers to an external factor, such as job loss or relationship difficulties, that can exacerbate or trigger depressive episodes.

Psychostimulant

refers to medications that enhance mental alertness and focus, occasionally used in treatment-resistant depression.

Psychotherapeutic

refers to non-pharmacological approaches to treating depression, including various forms of therapy.

Recurring Episode

refers to a depressive episode that occurs after a period of remission

Risk Factor

refers to a characteristic or circumstance that increases the likelihood of developing depression, such as family tendency, female sex, or medication side effects.

Seasonal Pattern

refers to episodes of depression that occur at specific times of the year, most commonly during fall or winter.

Severity

refers to the intensity of depressive symptoms, categorized as mild, moderate, or severe.

Significant Weight Loss or Gain

refers to noticeable changes in body weight due to altered appetite or eating habits, a symptom of depression.

Single Episode

refers to a single occurrence of depressive symptoms without prior episodes.

Specifiers

refers to additional details that describe the nature of a depressive episode, such as melancholic or atypical features.

SSRIs

acronym for Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors, refers to medications that increase serotonin levels in the brain, widely used to treat depression and anxiety.

SNRIs

acronym for Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors, refers to medications that boost serotonin and norepinephrine levels, effective for treating depression and neuropathic pain.

Support

refers to emotional or social assistance provided to patients with depression.

Support Groups

refers to group-based interventions where individuals with depression share experiences and strategies for coping.

Suicidal Ideation

refers to thoughts or plans of self-harm or ending one's life, a severe symptom requiring immediate attention.

Symptom Criteria

refers to the set of symptoms used to diagnose a condition, as outlined in diagnostic manuals.

TCAs

acronym for Tricyclic Antidepressants, refers to antidepressants that elevate serotonin and norepinephrine levels, used to treat depression and chronic pain

Treatment

refers to the medical and therapeutic methods used to manage and alleviate depression.

Vagus Nerve Stimulation

refers to a treatment involving electrical stimulation of the vagus nerve to reduce depressive symptoms.

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