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WHAT ABOUT ETHIOLOGY?

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Depression has become the main focus of psychiatry care and research, due to its epidemiologic and economic weight in health. As a matter of fact depression is now the second condition after cardio-vascular diseases contributing to the costs in health in our modern societies according to the DALY's measures.

From an old etiologic perspective psychiatry shifted to a pragmatic way to solve the main theoretical issues in care and research. By this, we have now standard clinical methods to diagnose and classify depression, easy to use by any clinician (Psychiatrists and GPs), but we don't know the essential psychological and biologic mechanisms of this disease as well as how the supposed etiologic factors interact with these mechanisms.

Psychopharmacologic treatments opened some doors to these mechanisms, but the knowledge is still unsatisfactory in order to differentiate the several types of depression and to drive specific treatments to patients.

In this presentation included in the Symposium BACK TO THE BASICS: CHALLENGES IN CLASSIFICATION OF DEPRESSION it will be revised the actual knowledge concerning etiology and pathophysiology of depression.