

# Depressed Patient

**Category:** Sociobehavior or Biomedical, Psych Research, Clinical Research

**Roles:**

- Interviewer
- Potential Participant
- Spouse of Potential Participant

**Background Information:**

The research team is testing out a new form of psychotherapy for depression. The study involves an initial diagnostic interview and a six month assignment to either the new form of treatment or traditional cognitive behavioral therapy, with those who agree to enter the trial randomly assigned to one or the other.

**Interviewer:**

Just because someone is depressed doesn't mean they aren't able to consent (or refuse) to participate in research, but this person doesn't seem to care enough about *anything* to make a good decision. Prior to the interview, I talked to the spouse who wants very much for the potential participant to participate in this research. After all, no other treatment has worked on this person.

**Potential Participant:**

I have been unsuccessfully treated by a psychologist in the community using traditional cognitive behavioral treatment and I've tried medicines but hated them. My psychologist referred me to this clinic to see if I can receive a new form of treatment. I am tired of unsuccessful treatments and I really do not care whether or not this new treatment works,

or whether or not I get the new treatment or the old kind. What difference does it make?

The only reason I am going along with the idea is to please my spouse.

**Spouse of Potential Participant:**

I have watched my spouse undergo various psychotherapy treatments only to end up back at square one. Still, I hang on to the hope that my spouse can heal and return to the person my spouse once was, or at least improve enough so that I am not constantly worrying about my spouse. I am willing to try anything that might work. Although this new treatment they are testing out may do nothing, I feel that my spouse has nothing to lose. Prior to the interview, I spoke to the recruiter about how much I want for my spouse to enter this study. I'm afraid that my spouse's apathy will prevent him/her from signing up for this study.

## Depressed Patient: Roles

### Interviewer:

The research team is testing out a new form of psychotherapy for depression. The study involves an initial diagnostic interview and a six month assignment of either the new form of treatment or traditional cognitive behavioral therapy, with those who agree to enter the trial randomly assigned to one or the other.

Just because someone is depressed doesn't mean they are not able to consent (or refuse) to participate in research, but this person doesn't seem to care enough about *anything* to make a good decision. This person was referred to us by his psychologist. Prior to the interview, I talked to the spouse who wants very much for the Participant to participate in this research. After all, no other treatment has worked on this person. I am meeting with the potential volunteer in my office at the hospital.



## Depressed Patient: Roles

### Potential Participant:

I have been unsuccessfully treated by a psychologist in the community using traditional cognitive behavioral treatment and I've tried medicines but hated them. My psychologist referred me to this clinic to see if I can receive a new form of treatment that they are testing out. I am tired of unsuccessful treatments and I really do not care whether or not this new treatment works, or whether or not I get the new treatment or the old kind. What difference does it make? The only reason I am going along with the idea is to please my spouse.

*Imagine you are the potential participant and that you will need, at the conclusion of your exchange with the researcher, to decide whether or not to participate. Which decision you make is up to you.*

## Depressed Patient: Roles

### Spouse of Potential Participant:

I have watched my spouse undergo various psychotherapy treatments only to end up back at square one. Still, I hang on to the hope that my spouse can heal and return to the person my spouse once was, or at least improve enough so that I am not constantly worrying about my spouse. I am willing to try anything that might work. Although this new treatment they are testing out may do nothing, I feel that my spouse has nothing to lose. Prior to the interview, I spoke to the recruiter about how much I want for my spouse to enter this study. I'm afraid that my spouse's apathy will prevent him/her from signing up for this study.

*Imagine you are the potential participant and that you will need, at the conclusion of your exchange with the researcher, to decide whether or not to participate. Which decision you make is up to you.*