



CLINICAL EVALUATION OF DIATHESIS STRESS ON POST BATTLEFIELD SOLDIERS

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ABSTRACT

Several literatures have attempted to analyse the causes and effects of diathesis stress. Some methods of medical evaluation and research design have established a dynamic and causal relationship between genetic¹ factors and environmental exposure; others have linked it with post traumatic experiences.² The paper explores these developments and identified the gaps in the field and new directions in recent research focusing on soldiers that have served in war and peace keeping missions. The data is a compilation of the cost of medical diagnosis and treatment of diathesis stress patients from 1993-2013. The data is drawn from 10 British Soldiers that have served in Afghanistan and Iraq wars and 20 African soldiers that fought in the civil wars of Liberia and Sierra Leone. We hypothesize that exposure to war does not cause and/or worsen the symptoms of diathesis stress in the patients with a pre-existing vulnerability. We adopted the Granger causality tests of the hypothesis and explored the implications for present and future treatment.

Keywords: Medical Evaluation, Diathesis Stress, Granger Causation, War.

¹ Andreasen, N. C. (1987). The measurement of genetic aspects of depression. (In A. J. Marsella, R. M. A. Hirschfeld, and M. M. Katz (Eds.), *The measurement of depression* (pp. 87—108). New York: Guilford Press.)

² Dickerson S S, Kemeny ME. Acute stressors and cortisol responses: a theoretical integration and synthesis of laboratory research. *Psychol Bull.* 2004;150:355–391.