

- 14 Vilagut G, Ferrer M, Rajmil L, Rebollo P, Permanyer-Miralda G, Quintana JM, et al. The Spanish version of the Short Form 36 Health Survey: a decade of experience and new developments. *Gac Sanit* 2005; **19**: 135–50.
- 15 First MB, Gibbon M, Spitzer RL, Williams JBW. *User's Guide for the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders. Research Version*. Biometrics Research, 1996.
- 16 Sheehan DV, Lecrubier Y, Sheehan H, Amorim P, Janavs J, Weiller E, et al. The Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (M.I.N.I.): the development and validation of a structured diagnostic psychiatric interview for DSM-IV and ICD-10. *J Clin Psychiatry* 1998; **59**: 22–33.
- 17 Ferrando L, Bobes J, Gibert J. *MINI International Neuropsychiatric Interview*. (Spanish version). IAP, 2000 (<http://entomologia.rediris.es/pub/bscw.cgi/d602335/MINI%20Entrevista%20Neuropsiquiatrica%20Internacional.pdf>).
- 18 American Psychiatric Association. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4th edn) (DSM-IV)*. APA, 1994.
- 19 Koenker R. *Quantile Regression*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- 20 Ware JE, Sherbourne CD. The MOS 36-item short-form health survey (SF-36). I. Conceptual framework and item selection. *Med Care* 1992; **30**: 473–83.
- 21 Korkeila Jyrki JA. *Measuring Aspects of Mental Health*. National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, 2000.
- 22 Breslau J, Javaras KN, Blacker D, Murphy JM, Normand SL. Differential item functioning between ethnic groups in the epidemiological assessment of depression. *J Nerv Ment Dis* 2008; **196**: 297–306.
- 23 Knight M, Stewart-Brown S, Fletcher L. Estimating health needs: the impact of a checklist of conditions and quality of life measurements on health information derived from community surveys. *J Public Health Med* 2001; **23**: 179–86.
- 24 Fan VS, Au D, Heagerty P, Deyo RA, McDonnell MB, Fihn SD. Validation of case-mix measures derived from self-reports of diagnoses and health. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2002; **55**: 371–80.
- 25 US Department of Health and Human Services. Evaluation of National Health Interview Survey diagnostic reporting. *Vital Health Stat* 2 1994; **120**: 1–116.
- 26 Jungbauer J, Bischkopf J, Angermeyer MC. Stress of family caregivers of psychiatric patients. Developmental trends, concepts and results of research. *Psychiatr Prax* 2002; **28**: 105–14.
- 27 Lamers LM, Bouwmans CAM, van Straten A, Donker MCH, Hakkaart A. Comparison of EQ-5D and SF-6D utilities in mental health patients. *Health Econ* 2006; **15**: 1229–36.
- 28 Burstrom K, Johannesson M, Diderichsen F. Health-related quality of life by disease and socio-economic group in the general population in Sweden. *Health Policy* 2001; **55**: 51–69.
- 29 Sapin C, Fantino B, Nowicki ML, Kind P. Usefulness of EQ-5D in assessing health status in primary care patients with major depressive disorder. *Health Qual Life Outcomes* 2004; **2**: 20.
- 30 Revicki DA, Wood M. Patient-assigned health state utilities for depression-related outcomes: differences by depression severity and antidepressant medications. *J Affect Disord* 1998; **48**: 25–36.
- 31 Ruchlin HS, Insinga RP. A review of health-utility data for osteoarthritis implications for clinical trial-based evaluation. *Pharmacoeconomics* 2008; **26**: 925–35.
- 32 Brown JS, Neumann PJ, Papadopoulos G, Ruoff G, Diamond M, Menzin J. Migraine frequency and health utilities: findings from a multisite survey. *Value Health* 2008; **11**: 315–21.
- 33 Szende A, Svensson K, Stahl A, Meszaros A, Berta GY. Psychometric and utility-based measures of health status of asthmatic patients with different disease control level. *Pharmacoeconomics* 2004; **22**: 537–47.
- 34 Bardage C, Isacson D, Ring L, Bingefors K. A Swedish population-based study on the relationship between the SF-36 and health utilities to measure health in hypertension. *Blood Press* 2003; **12**: 203–10.
- 35 Maddigan SL, Feeny DH, Johnson JA. Health-related quality of life deficits associated with diabetes and comorbidities in a Canadian National Population Health Survey. *Qual Life Res* 2005; **14**: 1311–20.
- 36 Üstun TB, Sartorius N. *Mental Illness in General Health Care. An International Study*. John Wiley & Sons, 1995.

Psychiatry in the Old Testament

Psalm 38: A man with major depression

George Stein

One of the many purposes the psalms served was to console the sick. These are known as the sickness psalms. There are only six such psalms and two describe quite severe depression (Psalms 38 and 88). Psalm 38 is a good example, but for reasons of space only those verses which describe key depressive symptoms are included here.

6 'I am utterly bowed down and prostrate, all day long I go around mourning' – depressed mood.

8 'I am utterly spent and crushed: I groan because of the tumult in my heart' – despair, anxiety.

10 'My heart throbs, my strength fails me: as for the light of my eyes – it has gone from me' – tachycardia due to anxiety, anergy, anhedonia?

13 'But I am like the deaf I do not hear: like the mute who cannot speak

14 'Truly I am like one who does not hear and in whose mouth there is no retort' – sensory inattention, inability to concentrate, with depressive mutism or psychomotor retardation.

18 'I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin' – guilt.

The person may be experiencing an episode of psychotic depression as additional five verses describe enemies who are plotting his end: 12 'Those who seek my life lay their snares, Those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin, and mediate treachery all day long' – they may be real enemies or conspiracy theories with auditory hallucinations and thoughts of death through murder.

There is probably sufficient depressive symptomatology here to diagnose a DSM-IV major depression (five key symptoms, one of which is depressed mood). Such a combination of symptoms in this psalm may suggest that the author had had major depression himself, as it is unlikely that he would be able to render them so faithfully otherwise.

The British Journal of Psychiatry (2010)
196, 309. doi: 10.1192/bjp.196.4.309