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The assessment of life events in depressed patients : questionnaire versus interview.

The self-report questionnaire and interview methods very probably possess different degrees of sensitivity in the reporting of life events. In the search for confirmation of the findings already published (i.e. that the interview technique produces more and stronger evidence of exit events, whilst 'processing' events are more frequently reported with the questionnaire technique), a study of 50 depressed and 50 non-depressed patients was carried out. The differing sensitivity of the two techniques mentioned (self-report and interview), was established, particularly within the group of depressed patients. These findings will be discussed and the possible consequences for further research delineated.

Reference : OEI, T.I. and ZWART, F.M. The assessment of life events; self-administered questionnaire versus interview. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 10, 185-190, 1986.