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The Use of Latent Class Analysis for Identifying Subtypes of Depression: A Systematic Review

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Highlights

- Successful treatment of depression is complicated by heterogeneity in symptoms, severity, and course of the disorder.
- Latent class analysis (LCA), which can discern patterns from many depression characteristics, has been used to identify depression subtypes for many years but results have been inconsistent.
- Depression subtypes resulting from LCA models are most often distinguished by depression severity, with domains such as functioning and neurobiological measures rarely considered.
- The utility of depression subtypes resulting from LCA could be improved through standards for conducting and interpreting LCA models.

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