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Dysphoria: Ancient and Contemporary Concepts

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Recent deliberations gave rise to the assumption that some forms of irritability, irritation, or cognate states might represent an independent mood disorder. Reports in responsiveness observed in some of these states to specific kinds of pharmacotherapy appear to additionally support this theory. Research into this field, however, is hampered by the fact that, to date, such conditions have eluded clear psychopathological definition. This situation might perhaps be ameliorated by closely reviewing the concepts of 'dysphoria' – a term very irregularly utilized in designation of various outward manifestations of ill-humor.