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Premorbid Personality

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Synonyms

[Personality traits](#)

Definition

Personality refers to patterns of thinking, interpreting, and understanding oneself relative to the environment. Premorbid personality describes personality traits existing prior to illness or injury. There is evidence that lifelong personality traits persist even after traumatic brain injury. Clinical interviews with patients and family can provide insight about important premorbid personality characteristics that may have implications for how the individual copes with acquired disability. Both negative and positive traits may be associated with adjustment to injury or illness.

High levels of neuroticism, avoidance coping, catastrophizing, ineffective problem solving, and self-blame have been associated with poor adaptation. Recently, attention has been directed toward examining positive coping including greater levels of hope, lower neuroticism, resilience, and greater agreeableness.

Cross-References

► [Coping](#)

References and Readings

- Johnson-Green, D., & Touradji, P. (2009). Assessment of personality and psychopathology. In R. G. Frank, M. Rosenthal, & B. Caplan (Eds.), *Handbook of rehabilitation psychology* (2nd ed., pp. 195–211). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
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