

Psychology: Abnormality – Review of Unknown Areas

Q: Why does amenorrhoea occur?

A: Reduced body weight > no menstrual cycle > protection from pregnancy (mother would not be able to cope).

Q: What is cortisol?

A: A hormone produced by the adrenal gland, maintaining a steady supply of blood sugar for continued energy.

Q: What is the hippocampus?

A: An area of the brain that regulates the release of cortisol.

Q: What is the main criticism of the psychodynamic approach to eating disorders?

A: The approach is not falsifiable, and it is impossible to prove it either way.

Q: What is the process of thematic analysis?

A: The identification of themes before beginning a study.

Q: What does the hippocampus shrink with anorexics?

A: The hippocampus shrinks in periods of prolonged stress.

Q: Is it possible to have more than one eating disorder at the same time?

A: Yes – it is possible to have characteristics of both anorexia and bulimia, for example.