

Eating Disorders: Biomedical Approach



This activity will help you to:

- Apply the biomedical model to eating disorders
- Develop hypotheses to test the biomedical model
- Evaluate the biomedical view of eating disorders

The biomedical model & eating disorders

The biomedical model suggests that psychological problems have physical (organic) causes. By applying the ideas of the biomedical model to eating disorders (anorexia and bulimia nervosa) we can develop hypotheses about their causes. Because the model suggests that the causes are physical it is in principle(!) a relatively straightforward task to gather evidence against which to evaluate the biomedical view.

Genetics	The biomedical model suggests that psychological disorders can have a genetic basis. How could we look for evidence to establish a genetic basis for eating disorders?	
Neurochemistry	The biomedical model suggests that psychological disorders can be caused by abnormal brain chemistry. How could we establish whether this plays a role in anorexia and/or bulimia?	
The Brain	The biomedical model links abnormality in behaviour to abnormality in brain structure or functioning. What techniques would allow us to find out if people with eating disorders are affected in this way?	