Women's depression can erode their intimate relationships

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Israeli researchers have found that a woman's depression can bring her relationship down.

A depressed person can be withdrawn, needy, or hostile-and give little back. But there's another way that depression isolates partners from each other.

It chips away at the ability to perceive the others' thoughts and feelings. It impairs what psychologists call "empathic accuracy" -and that can exacerbate alienation, depression, and the cycle by which they feed each other.

Reuma Gadassi and Nilly Mor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Eshkol Rafaeli at Bar-Ilan University wanted to understand better these dynamics in relationships, particularly the role of gender.

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