# Chapter 58 Psychosomatic Medicine

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# Abstract

Psychosomatic medicine may be considered as a comprehensive, interdisciplinary framework for assessment of psychological factors affecting individual vulnerability, as well as course and outcome of illness; biopsychosocial consideration of patient care in clinical practice; specialist interventions to integrate psychological therapies in the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of medical disease. Current advances in the field have practical implications for medical research and practice, with particular reference to the role of lifestyle, the challenge of medically unexplained symptoms, the psychosocial needs entailed by chronic illness, the function of the patient as a health producer.