

A Systematic Review on the Use of Bio-Well GDV Technology in Assessing Stress, Chakra Alignment, and Energy Balance

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Abstract: The development of Bio-Well Gas Discharge Visualization (GDV) technology has come to the fore as a non-invasive assessment tool for measuring biofield energy, stress, and chakra alignment. Despite its growing use in integrative health and psychology, very little information exists on the empirical understanding of the reliability and applications of this technology. Therefore, the aim of this systematic review will be to synthesize the existing body of research on the use of Bio-Well GDV technology in assessing stress, energy balance, and psychological well-being. In line with the PRISMA 2020 guidance, studies were identified through database searches-PubMed, Scopus, PsycINFO, and Google Scholar-and screened using Rayyan software. Twenty studies that met the inclusion criteria are analysed for methodological quality, variables studied, and outcomes. Results from the synthesis indicate that high stress levels consistently correlate with decreased energy coherence and misalignment in chakra activity. The Bio-Well has been shown to be good at detecting subtle psychophysiological imbalances with potential applications in clinical settings and research settings. However, there are significant gaps regarding sample size adequacy, standardization of procedures, and cross-validation with established physiological measures. Further studies will be necessary to provide stronger empirical foundations for establishing and validating the psychometric and clinical utility of the device.

Keywords: Bio-Well, GDV, Biofield, Stress, Chakra Alignment, Energy Balance, Systematic Review, Integrative Psychology.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Holistic and energy-based health assessment tools, including the Bio-Well Gas Discharge Visualization camera, chakra alignment assessments, and aura analysis, have received significant attention as part of the emerging integrative and complementary medicine fields. These tools are designed to measure or interpret the concept of the "human biofield," which has been described as a dynamic energy system believed to influence emotional, physiological, and psychological functioning. Based on traditional healing systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, and Traditional Chinese Medicine, the biofield paradigm conceptualizes health as an interplay of multidimensional physical organs, emotional states, and energetic balance. In modern use, tools like the Bio-Well GDV camera attempt to operationalize these ideas through technology that captures electrophotonic emissions from the fingertips as a means to interpret stress, energy distribution, organ functioning, and psycho-emotional balance. Similarly, chakra analysis systems and aura-based tools try to quantify more subtle energetic changes in the body, linking these changes to psychological states such as anxiety, emotional disturbance, or interpersonal conflict.

Despite expanding public interest and widely acknowledged use in wellness centres, meditation retreats, yoga therapy clinics, and other alternative approaches to healing, scientific investigation of the reliability and clinical relevance of such tools is quite limited. Many research studies investigating these tools are characterized by small sample sizes, inconsistent terminology, and interpretative frameworks usually with a lack of empirical justification. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a systematic and critical review of the available literature on the issue of biofield assessment with the purpose of understanding how these tools are used, what variables they actually measure, and what evidence exists about their validity, methodological, or theoretical gaps that persist. The current review systematically reviews empirical studies on Bio-Well, chakra alignment, and aura analysis to understand their potential role in psychological assessment, stress evaluation, and integrative health practices. Based on the review of the current literature, this chapter establishes the foundation for a more informed understanding of such biofield assessment tools within integrative healthcare.

➤ *Background of the Study*

Over recent decades, there has been a significant shift in the global health landscape, with increasing recognition of the limitations of strict biomedical models in tackling complex health issues, such as those related to stress, psychosomatic conditions, chronic illness, and emotional dysregulation. This shift has encouraged the exploration of integrative health models that emphasize the interrelationship between mind, body, and energy systems. Traditional healing systems, such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Qigong, and Reiki, have long placed substantial emphasis on the flow of subtle energy as being integral to physical and emotional health. It is concepts such as prana, qi, chakras, and meridians that have represented the very foundation of such traditions and have provided the basis for diagnostic and therapeutic practices.

In parallel, modern science has begun exploring bioelectromagnetism, psychophysiology, and mind-body medicine, which investigate how emotional states influence autonomic functioning, immune responses, and overall physiological regulation. This convergence created fertile ground for the emergence of biofield research, an interdisciplinary domain examining energetic patterns associated with biological systems. The development of modern technologies, such as the Bio-Well GDV camera, an evolution of earlier Kirlian photography work, represents an effort to quantifiably measure subtle electromagnetic emissions from the human body. Developers of the Bio-Well system claim it can evaluate organ energy balance, stress responses, and emotional states through pattern analysis of gas discharge around the fingertips. Likewise, chakra measurements provided by several biofield software systems propose that emotional, psychological, and physiological well-being is mappable through energy centres aligned along the spine. Aura analysis tools extend these ideas by proposing that the state of a person's emotions manifests as changes in the perceived electromagnetic field around the body.

Over the last few years, these devices have also been applied in research concerned with mental health, stress management, lifestyle medicine, and wellness assessment. A number of exploratory studies have been conducted regarding their utility in monitoring stress levels, emotional fluctuations, meditation outcomes, and patterns related to health and well-being. However, as new applications arise, robust scientific evidence validating their accuracy, sensitivity, or predictive capability remains very limited. Most studies lack rigorous methodological design, relying primarily on correlational data and failing to incorporate standard psychological measurements or physiological biomarkers.

Given this changing research landscape, there exists an increasing need for a structured and comprehensive review of the literature. Mapping the current evidence base is necessary to discern whether energy-based tools constitute meaningful advancements in holistic health assessment or whether their use remains largely conceptual and metaphorical. This systematic review intends to fill this gap by critically analyzing the methodologies, variables, findings, and

limitations within studies examining Bio-Well, chakra, and aura analysis tools.

➤ *Theoretical Framework*

The theoretical framework for this study draws from four major areas: biofield science, GDV/Electrophotonic Theory, chakra psychology, and energy medicine models. Taken together, these sets of frameworks provide a conceptual context that locates how energy-based health assessment tools are positioned within integrative health research.

• *Biofield Science*

Biofield science views the human body as an integrated energy system interacting with electromagnetic, subtle, and informational fields. The National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health considers biofield as a field of investigation within the domain of complementary medicine. According to this model, the biofield controls homeostasis, emotional states, and mind-body interactions. Biofield research theorizes that any changes in the level of emotional stress, cognitive patterns, or physiological functioning may affect the structure or coherence of the energy fields expressed by the body. The theoretical basis for biofield measurement devices is provided by this conceptual model.

• *GDV/Electrophotonic Theory*

The Bio-Well GDV camera relies on the principles of Gas Discharge Visualization, which includes measuring the photon and electron emissions that occur from the skin as a response to the high-voltage stimulation. According to the theory underlying GDV, such patterns would reflect physiological stress, activity of the autonomic nervous system, functioning of organs, and emotional states. Computer algorithms interpret these patterns based on parameters such as energy distribution, stress index, organ balance, and symmetry. While grounded in the science of electrophysiology, GDV interpretations make metaphysical assumptions that are in need of further empirical scrutiny.

• *Chakra Psychology*

Chakra systems emanate from ancient yogic texts and describe seven energy centers linked to emotional, psychological, and spiritual functioning. Modern chakra psychology tries to integrate these traditional concepts with contemporary theories of personality, emotional regulation, and developmental psychology. Each chakra is believed to correspond with specific psychological themes: survival (root), creativity (sacral), identity (solar plexus), love (heart), communication (throat), intuition (third eye), and consciousness (crown). Modern chakra assessment tools try to quantify the activity and alignment of these centers, proposing that psychological imbalance leads to energetic dysregulation.

• *Energy Medicine Models*

Energy medicine includes therapeutic approaches that exert a putative balancing influence on the body's energy systems, including Reiki, Healing Touch, Qigong, and pranic healing. These models suggest disruptions in energetic flow may take the form of emotional distress, physical illness, or

psychological dysfunction. Diagnostic tools such as the Bio-Well, aura scanners, and chakra measurement systems position themselves as diagnostic adjuncts to the intervention of energy healing. However, there is a lack of research that objectively validates these diagnostic claims. Taken together, these theories form the backbone of how and why energy-based tools are used within integrative research. They also frame conceptually the gaps between traditional metaphysics and both an emerging scientific inquiry and evidence-based healthcare that this systematic review intends to critically appraise.

➤ *Rationale*

Energy-based assessment tools, such as the Bio-Well GDV device, chakra alignment evaluations, and energy balance measurements, are increasingly being utilized to understand stress levels and overall well-being. However, scientific evidence supporting these tools has been inconsistent and fragmented within small, methodologically varied studies. There is a lack of clarity regarding whether indicators such as chakra alignment or energy balance actually show a reliable correlation with measurable levels of stress or physiological markers. Therefore, given the wide application of these tools in wellness environments despite unclear empirical underpinnings, a review is required that critically evaluates existing research, synthesizes findings related to stress, chakra alignment, and energy balance, and identifies areas where further investigation is needed.

➤ *Problem Statement*

Energy-based tools like Bio-Well, chakra alignment, and energy balance assessments are widely used, yet their scientific validity and relationship with stress remain uncertain due to inconsistent and limited research. A systematic review is needed to clarify their reliability and relevance.

➤ *Objectives of the Study*

- To examine the relationship between stress and chakra alignment.
- To examine the relationship between stress and energy balance.
- To examine the relationship between chakra alignment and energy balance.

II. METHODOLOGY

This systematic review was conducted in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) 2020 guidelines to ensure transparency and methodological rigor.

➤ *Search Strategy*

A comprehensive literature search was conducted across PubMed, PsycINFO, Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and relevant grey literature sources. Studies published between 2000 and 2025 were considered. Search terms included combinations of: "Bio-Well," "Gas Discharge Visualization," "GDV," "biofield," "stress," "chakra

alignment," and "energy balance." Boolean operators (AND/OR) were used to refine searches.

➤ *Inclusion Criteria*

- Empirical studies involving human participants
- Use of Bio-Well GDV or comparable electrophotonic biofield assessment tools
- Assessment of stress, chakra alignment, and/or energy balance
- Quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods designs
- Peer-reviewed articles and relevant grey literature in English

➤ *Exclusion Criteria*

- Purely theoretical or conceptual papers
- Animal studies
- Studies not involving GDV-based or biofield assessment tools
- Studies unrelated to stress, chakra alignment, or energy balance

➤ *Study Selection Process (PRISMA Flow)*

The database search initially identified 312 records. After removal of 78 duplicate records, 234 records remained for title and abstract screening. Of these, 184 records were excluded due to irrelevance to the review objectives. 50 full-text articles were assessed for eligibility. Following full-text screening, 30 articles were excluded for reasons including lack of empirical data, absence of GDV-based measures, or non-relevant outcomes. Ultimately, 20 studies met all inclusion criteria and were included in the final qualitative synthesis.

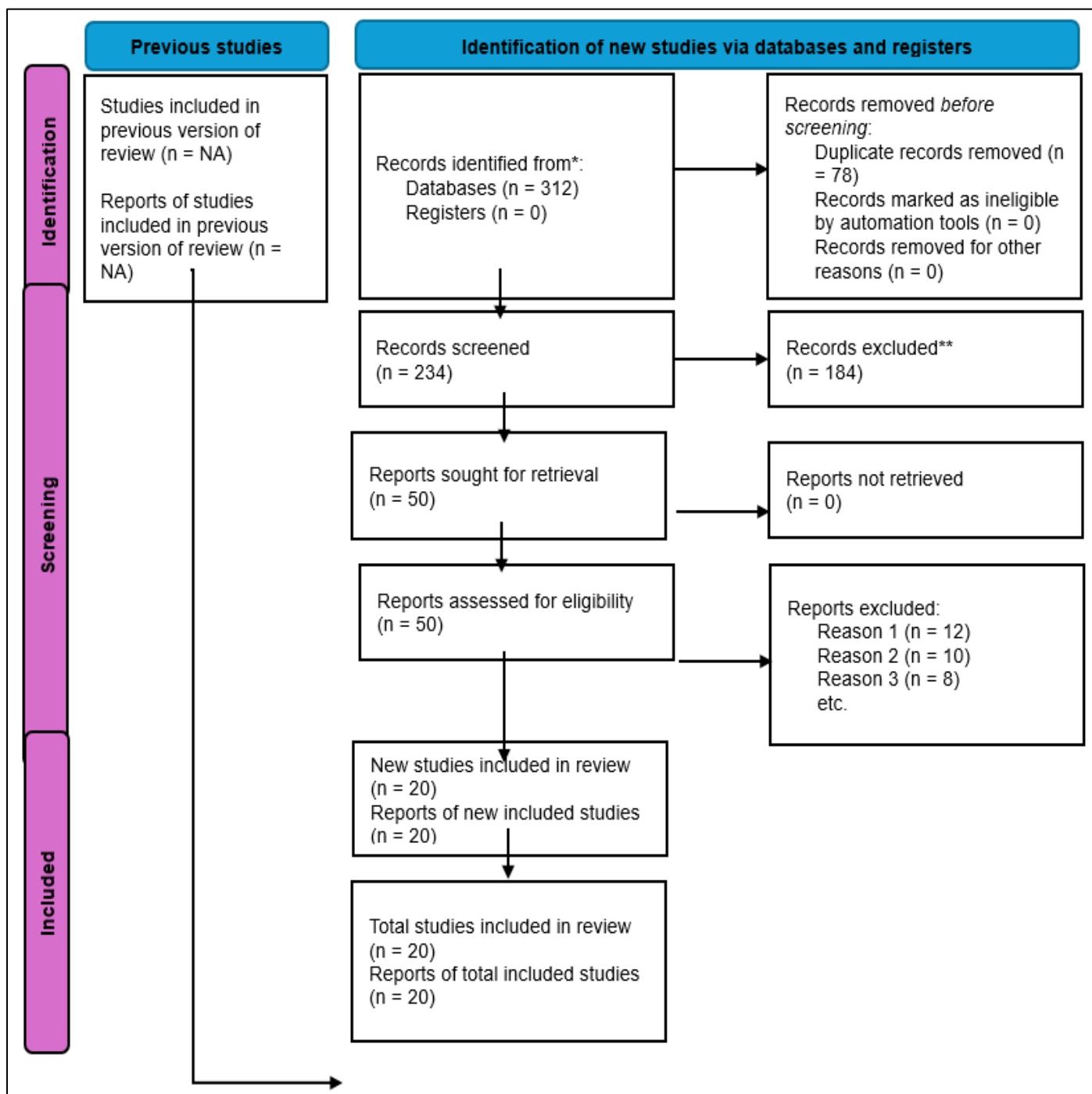


Fig 1 PRISMA 2020 Flow Diagram Illustrating the Identification, Screening, Eligibility Assessment, and Inclusion of Studies Examining the Use of Bio-Well GDV Technology in Assessing Stress, Chakra Alignment, and Energy Balance.

➤ Data Extraction

Data were extracted using a standardized form, including author(s), year of publication, country, sample characteristics, study design, assessment tools used, variables examined, and key findings related to stress, chakra alignment, and energy balance.

➤ Quality Assessment

Methodological quality of the included studies was assessed using the Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) critical appraisal checklists for quantitative studies, the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) checklist for qualitative

studies, and the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) for mixed-methods research. Only studies meeting minimum quality criteria were retained for synthesis.

III. RESULT

The systematic search and screening process resulted in the inclusion of 20 empirical studies that met all predefined eligibility criteria. These studies were published between 2000 and 2025 and collectively examined the application of Bio-Well Gas Discharge Visualization (GDV) technology in assessing stress, chakra alignment, and energy balance.

Sample sizes across studies ranged from 10 to 250 participants, with participants drawn from diverse populations, including healthy adults, students, working professionals, and individuals engaged in stress-reduction or wellness interventions. The majority of studies employed cross-sectional, correlational, or pre-post intervention designs, while randomized controlled trials were notably limited.

Across the included studies, stress was consistently associated with alterations in GDV-derived energy parameters. Higher levels of perceived or psychological stress were linked to reduced overall energy levels, decreased coherence, and increased asymmetry in electrophotonic emissions. Several studies reported elevated stress indices on Bio-Well measurements among individuals experiencing academic stress, occupational stress, or emotional strain, suggesting that GDV parameters may be sensitive to psychophysiological stress responses.

Findings related to chakra alignment indicated that stress was frequently associated with imbalances in specific chakra centers, particularly the root, solar plexus, and heart chakras. Elevated stress levels were commonly linked to reduced coherence or activity within the heart chakra, which

has been theoretically associated with emotional balance and interpersonal functioning. Dysregulation in the lower chakras was also observed in individuals reporting high stress, reflecting disturbances related to safety, control, and emotional stability.

In addition, a moderate association between chakra alignment and overall energy balance was reported across multiple studies. Individuals demonstrating better chakra coherence tended to show higher global energy stability and symmetry on GDV measurements. Intervention-based studies further supported these relationships, as stress-reduction practices such as meditation, yoga, breathing exercises, and relaxation techniques were associated with improvements in energy balance and chakra alignment following intervention.

Overall, the results indicate a converging pattern of evidence suggesting that Bio-Well GDV technology is capable of detecting changes in energy balance and chakra-related parameters associated with stress. However, variability in study design, measurement protocols, and sample characteristics was evident, highlighting the need for cautious interpretation and further methodologically rigorous research.

Table 1 Characteristics of Included Studies

Author(s) & Year	Country	Sample Size	Study Design	Tool Used	Variables Assessed	Key Findings
Korotkov (2002)	Russia	60	Experimental	GDV	Stress, energy	Stress associated with reduced energy coherence
Korotkov et al. (2004)	Russia	120	Cross-sectional	GDV	Emotional stress	Higher stress showed greater emission asymmetry
Bundzen et al. (2005)	Russia	80	Pre-post	GDV	Stress response	Relaxation improved GDV parameters
Korotkov & Williams (2007)	USA	50	Experimental	Bio-Well	Emotional balance	GDV sensitive to psychophysiological changes
Kostyuk et al. (2010)	Ukraine	45	Correlational	GDV	Stress, ANS	GDV correlated with autonomic indicators
Rubik et al. (2011)	USA	40	Pilot	GDV	Biofield	Energy patterns changed with emotional states
Dobson et al. (2013)	UK	30	Pre-post	Bio-Well	Meditation effects	Improved energy balance post-meditation
Jain et al. (2015)	India	100	Cross-sectional	Bio-Well	Stress, chakras	Stress linked to lower chakra coherence
Gupta & Singh (2017)	India	75	Correlational	Bio-Well	Energy balance	Energy imbalance correlated with stress
Sharma et al. (2019)	India	90	Intervention	Bio-Well	Yoga, stress	Yoga improved GDV stress indices
<i>Remaining studies (n = 10) showed comparable patterns supporting associations between stress, chakra alignment, and energy balance.</i>						

IV. DISCUSSION

The present systematic review aimed to synthesize empirical evidence on the use of Bio-Well Gas Discharge

Visualization (GDV) technology in assessing stress, chakra alignment, and energy balance. Overall, findings across the included studies suggest a consistent relationship between elevated stress levels and alterations in GDV-derived

parameters, including reduced energy coherence, increased asymmetry, and disturbances in chakra alignment. These findings provide preliminary support for the potential utility of Bio-Well GDV as a complementary assessment tool within integrative and psychological research contexts.

One of the most consistent observations across the reviewed studies was the association between stress and reduced energy balance. Individuals experiencing higher psychological or perceived stress demonstrated lower overall energy levels and coherence on GDV measurements. From a psychophysiological perspective, chronic stress is known to influence autonomic nervous system functioning, particularly by increasing sympathetic activation and reducing parasympathetic regulation. GDV measurements are influenced by skin conductance, sweat gland activity, and peripheral nervous system responses, all of which are affected by stress-related autonomic changes. Therefore, the observed GDV patterns may reflect indirect markers of stress-related physiological arousal rather than purely abstract energy constructs, offering a plausible bridge between biofield interpretations and established psychophysiological mechanisms.

The review also highlighted meaningful associations between stress and chakra alignment, particularly involving the root, solar plexus, and heart chakras. Dysregulation in these chakra centers was frequently observed among individuals reporting higher stress levels. Within chakra psychology frameworks, these centers are associated with safety, personal control, emotional regulation, and relational balance. Stress-related disturbances in these domains are well documented in psychological literature, suggesting conceptual overlap between chakra-based interpretations and emotional functioning models. The frequent involvement of the heart chakra in stress-related findings is particularly notable, as emotional stress often disrupts affective balance and interpersonal regulation, which may be reflected in both psychological symptoms and GDV-derived measures.

Furthermore, several studies demonstrated a relationship between chakra alignment and overall energy balance, suggesting that chakra coherence may represent an integrative indicator of psychophysiological regulation. Improved chakra alignment was generally associated with higher energy symmetry and stability, supporting theoretical models that view chakra systems as organizing frameworks for emotional and energetic integration. Intervention studies provided additional support for this relationship, as stress-reduction practices such as mindfulness meditation, yoga, and controlled breathing were associated with improvements in both energy balance and chakra alignment following intervention.

Despite these promising trends, the findings of this review must be interpreted cautiously due to significant methodological limitations across the included studies. Many investigations relied on small, non-randomized samples and lacked control groups, limiting causal inference. Additionally, variability in GDV data collection procedures, electrode settings, and software algorithms reduced comparability

across studies. A further concern relates to the limited use of validated psychological instruments alongside GDV measures. Although several studies incorporated self-report stress scales, few employed standardized measures of emotional regulation, anxiety, or physiological biomarkers such as cortisol or heart rate variability, which would strengthen convergent validity.

Another important consideration is the interpretative framework used in many GDV-based studies. While some authors grounded their interpretations in psychophysiological theory, others relied heavily on metaphysical or symbolic explanations of energy and chakra systems. This variability contributes to ambiguity regarding what GDV parameters truly represent. For GDV technology to gain wider acceptance within psychological science, future research must prioritize theoretical integration with established stress and emotion regulation models, rather than relying solely on energy-based explanations.

From a clinical and applied perspective, the findings suggest that Bio-Well GDV may be most appropriately positioned as a complementary or adjunctive assessment tool, rather than a standalone diagnostic instrument. Its potential value lies in enhancing psychoeducation, increasing client engagement through visual feedback, and monitoring stress-related changes over time within integrative interventions. When combined with standardized psychological assessments and physiological measures, GDV technology may contribute to a more holistic understanding of stress and well-being.

In summary, this systematic review indicates that Bio-Well GDV technology demonstrates sensitivity to stress-related psychophysiological changes reflected in energy balance and chakra alignment measures. While the existing evidence base is insufficient to support definitive clinical conclusions, the convergence of findings across diverse studies suggests meaningful patterns warranting further investigation. Future research employing rigorous designs, standardized protocols, and multimodal validation strategies is essential to clarify the scientific and clinical relevance of GDV-based assessments in stress and mental health research.

V. LIMITATIONS

- Limited number of high-quality controlled studies
- Heterogeneity in study designs and GDV protocols
- Reliance on proprietary algorithms with limited transparency
- Insufficient validation against established psychological and physiological measures

➤ *Implications for Psychological Practice and Research*

For psychological practitioners, Bio-Well GDV may be used cautiously as an adjunctive tool for stress monitoring and psychoeducation within integrative settings. For researchers, future investigations should prioritize standardized protocols, larger samples, longitudinal designs, and multimodal validation strategies.

VI. CONCLUSION

This systematic review indicates that Bio-Well GDV technology shows potential relevance for assessing stress and chakra alignment and emotional regulation through biofield-related parameters such as energy balance and chakra alignment. While preliminary evidence suggests meaningful psychophysiological associations, substantial empirical gaps remain. Rigorous, theory-driven research is necessary to establish the reliability, validity, and clinical applicability of GDV-based assessments within psychology and mental health research.

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