

SCORING THE DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS INTERVIEW SCHEDULE – DSM-5 VERSION

The Dissociative Disorders Interview Schedule (DDIS), is divided into 16 sections. Each section is scored independently. All DSM-5 diagnoses are made according to the rules in DSM-5.

There is no total score for the entire interview. However, average scores for 166 dissociative identity disorder (DID) subjects on selected subsections are given below (Ross et al, Differentiating Multiple Personality Disorder and Dissociative Disorder Not Otherwise Specified, Dissociation, 5, 87-90, 1992).

Following presentation of scoring rules for each section, you will find a description of a typical profile for a DID patient. The DDIS has been administered to over 500 subjects with a confirmed false positive diagnosis of DID in 1% of cases. The sensitivity of the DDIS for the diagnosis of DID in 196 clinically diagnosed cases was 95.4%.

I. Somatic Complaints

This is scored according to DSM-5 rules. To receive a diagnosis of somatic symptom disorder by DSM-5 rules one must be positive for one symptom from questions 3-37. One of the a-c criteria in between question 2 and question 3 must apply to the symptom. Questions 38 and 39 are from DSM-IV and can be ignored for DSM-5 scoring. They are included only for the purpose of comparing DSM-IV and DSM-5 rules.

A history of somatization disorder (the DSM-IV name for somatic symptom disorder) distinguishes DID from schizophrenia, eating disorders, and controls, but not from panic disorder. The average number of symptoms positive from questions 3-37 for DID was 14.1. Out of 166 subjects, 39.8% met DSM-III-R criteria for somatization disorder: these data have not been reanalyzed by DSM-IV criteria.

II. Substance Abuse

We score the subject as positive for substance abuse if he or she answers “yes” to any question in this section. A history of substance abuse differentiates DID from schizophrenia, eating disorders, panic disorder, and controls: 51.2% of 166 DID subjects were positive.

III. Psychiatric History

This is a descriptive section that does not yield a score as such. In a questionnaire study (Ross, Norton, & Wozney, 1989) we found that in 236 cases of DID, the average patient had received 2.74 other psychiatric diagnoses besides DID.

IV. Major Depressive Episode

This is scored according to DSM-5 rules, which underwent only minor changes in wording from DSM-III-R to DSM-IV, and no substantial changes from DSM-IV to DSM-5. To be positive the subject must answer “yes” to question 54. He or she must answer “yes” to 4 questions from 55-62.

A history of depression does not discriminate DID from other diagnostic groups: out of 166 subjects, 89.8% had been clinically depressed at some time.

V. Schneiderian First Rank Symptoms

In this section we score the total number of “yes” responses. The total number of Schneiderian symptoms positive discriminates DID from all groups tested including schizophrenia. The average number of positive symptoms in 166 subjects was 6.5.

VI. Trances, Sleepwalking, Childhood Companions

Each of these items is scored independently. The subject is positive for sleepwalking if he or she answers “yes” to question 67, positive for trances if “yes” to 69, positive for imaginary playmates if “yes” to 71. Each of these items discriminates DID from schizophrenia, eating disorder, panic disorder, and controls.

VII. Childhood Abuse

The subject is scored positive for physical abuse if he or she answers “yes” to question 73. Other data are descriptive. A history of physical abuse discriminates DID from schizophrenia, eating disorders, and panic disorder.

The subject is positive for sexual abuse if he or she answers “yes” to question 78. Sexual abuse also discriminates DID from the other three groups. Out of 166 subjects 84.3% reported sexual abuse, 78.3% physical abuse, and 91.0% physical and/or sexual abuse.

VIII. Features Associated with Dissociative Identity Disorder

The responses in this section are added up to give a total score. A positive response in this section is either “yes” or else “fairly often” or “frequently,” depending on the structure of the question. “Never” and “occasionally” are scored as negative. Secondary features discriminate DID from panic disorder, eating disorders and schizophrenia. The average number of features positive in 166 subjects with DID was 10.2.

IX. Supernatural/Possession/ESP Experiences/Cults

In this section the positive answers are added up to give a total score. These experiences discriminate DID from the other groups. The average number of positive responses for 166 subjects was 5.3.

X. Borderline Personality Disorder

This is scored by DSM-5 rules. The subject must be positive for 5 items to meet the criteria for borderline personality. Borderline personality does not discriminate DID from other groups tested to date, except for panic disorder and controls. However, the average number of borderline criteria positive does discriminate DID from schizophrenia, eating disorders, and panic disorder. The average for 166 DID subjects was 5.1.

XI. Dissociative Amnesia

This is scored by DSM-5 rules. The subject must be positive for question 117, negative for question 118, and positive for question 119.

XII. Dissociative Fugue

This is scored by DSM-5 rules. The subject must be positive for questions 120 and 121, negative for 122, and positive for 123. In DSM-IV, dissociative amnesia and dissociative fugue were separate disorders. In DSM-5, fugue is a subtype of dissociative amnesia, not a separate disorder: when fugue is present, it is called *dissociative amnesia with dissociative fugue*.

XIII. Depersonalization/Derealization Disorder

This is scored by DSM-5 rules. The subject must be positive for question 124a and b, negative for 125, and positive for 126. This diagnosis discriminates DID from other groups very poorly.

XIV. Dissociative Identity Disorder

This is scored by DSM-5 rules. The subject must be positive for questions 127-129 and negative for 130 to receive a diagnosis of DID.

XV. Dissociative Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (DSM-IV DDNOS); called Other Specified Dissociative Disorder or Unspecified Dissociative Disorder in DSM-5

This is scored positive based on the interviewer's judgment. A patient can be positive for dissociative disorder not otherwise specified only if he or she does not have any other dissociative disorder.

XVI. Concluding Item

This is a descriptive question and is not scored.

Most DID patients will exhibit the DDIS profile but some will score lower than usual in some or all sections.

Individuals with dissociative disorder not otherwise specified have the same profile, but to a lesser degree than those with full DID. It is not unusual for subjects to meet criteria for both dissociative amnesia and depersonalization disorder and to have elevated symptom profiles in the rest of the DDIS: these people usually have a chronic, complex dissociative disorder that is not well classified by the DSM-5 system. One might diagnose them as having a partial form of DID and classify them as dissociative disorder not otherwise specified, but this is not allowed by DSM-5 rules. One should bear in mind that subjects who are positive for dissociative amnesia and depersonalization disorder but negative for DID on the DDIS might actually have DID, in which case they have received a false negative diagnosis of DID from the DDIS.