



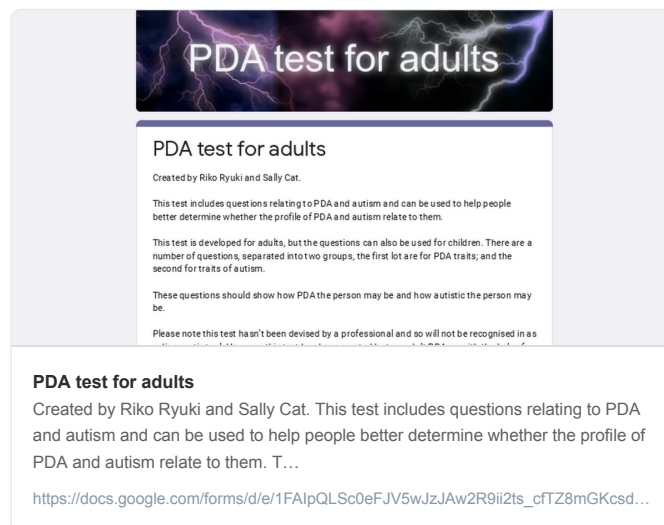
Richard Woods @Richard_Autism

Aug 25, 2021 · 49 tweets · [Richard_Autism/status/1430508153528098817](#)



[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) I need to ask are you aware that it is problematic to include a subscale for autism in your "PDA test for adults"? Or, has anyone else pointed out that it should not include a scale for autism?

Link to said "PDA test for adults"

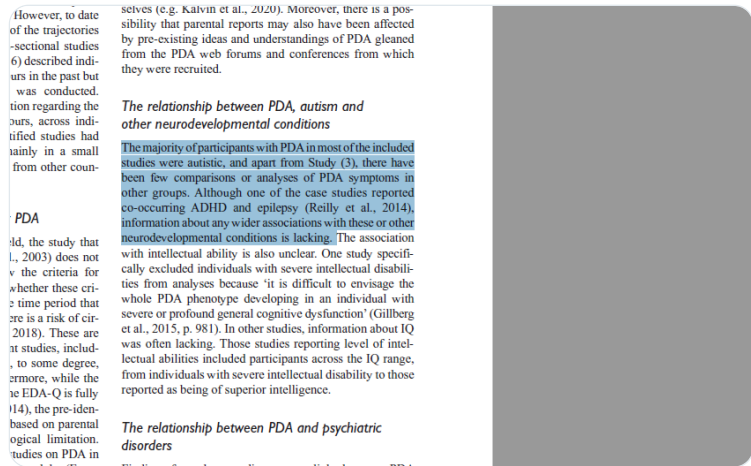


[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) There are few reasons for this. Firstly a recent systematic review has concluded there is not enough evidence to suggest PDA is a distinct anything, including an autism subtype/ autistic trait.

"Consequently, evidence that PDA is either a separate disorder or constitutes a stable subtype or trait in autistic individuals is currently lacking." (Kildahl et al, 2021, p12).

[@RikoRyuki](#) [@sallycatPDA](#) The systematic review also did not view PDA to be a form of autism. Or that because someone has PDA a person is autistic. The systematic review noted that PDA is seen in non-autistic persons, according to the literature.

From page 10.



There are 10 studies in which it is reasonable to view there are non-autistic persons in PDA research samples which I discuss in the link in the next tweet.

<https://rationaldemandavoidancecom.files.wordpress.com/2021/08/20-june-2021-10-studies-indicating-pda-is-seen-in-non-autistic-persons.pdf>

@sallycatPDA @RikoRyuki Besides there are other clinical reasons it is problematic viewing PDA as an ASD. I will not go into these here to save time and space. I discuss in an essay in next tweet.

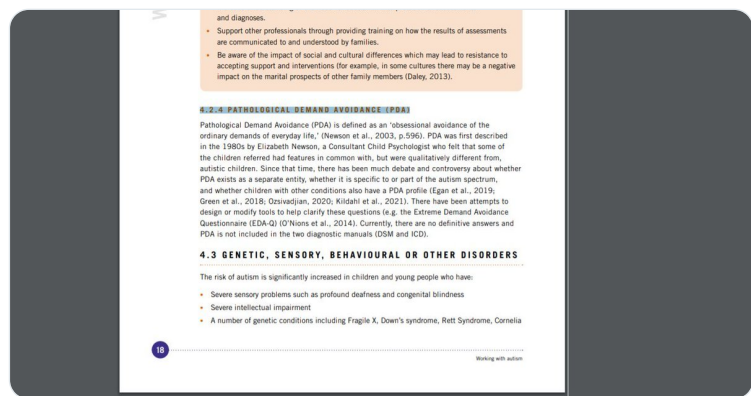
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351071989_Is_Pathological_Demand_Avoidance_a_meaningful_subgroup_of_autism

Other important reasons for not including an autism subscale is that respected organisations are not viewing PDA as a distinct entity, but are taking a neutral position on PDA.

@RikoRyuki @sallycatPDA you might be aware of the recent guide by the @BPSOfficial for psychologists working with autistic persons?

Link to it in the tweet below.

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Working%20with%20autism%20-%20best%20practice%20guidelines%20for%20psychologists.pdf>



[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#)

Page 18:

"PDA was first described in the 1980s by Elizabeth Newson, a Consultant Child Psychologist who felt that some of the children referred had features in common with, but were qualitatively different from, autistic children."

[@RikoRyuki](#) [@sallycatPDA](#) note the implication PDA is NOT autism in the above sentence.

Page 18.

"Since that time, there has been much debate and controversy about whether PDA exists as a separate entity, whether it is specific to or part of the autism spectrum, and whether children with other conditions also have a PDA profile"

[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#)

Page 18.

"Currently, there are no definitive answers and PDA is not included in the two diagnostic manuals (DSM and ICD)."

[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#), that the [@BPSOfficial](#) acknowledging debate over PDA, that some view it to be seen in non-autistic persons. It is not viewing to be an ASD. Says there are NO concrete answers to PDA.

[@RikoRyuki](#) [@sallycatPDA](#) that is the BPS way of advising persons to not assume PDA is only seen autistic persons.

[@RikoRyuki](#) [@sallycatPDA](#) arguably most important case of an organisation taking a neutral position & not assuming PDA, is [@NICEComms](#)

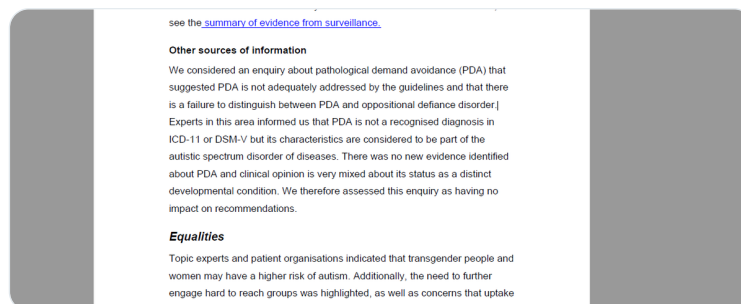
[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) you are probably aware that National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, recently in 2021 received a request to better recognise PDA in its autism guidelines.

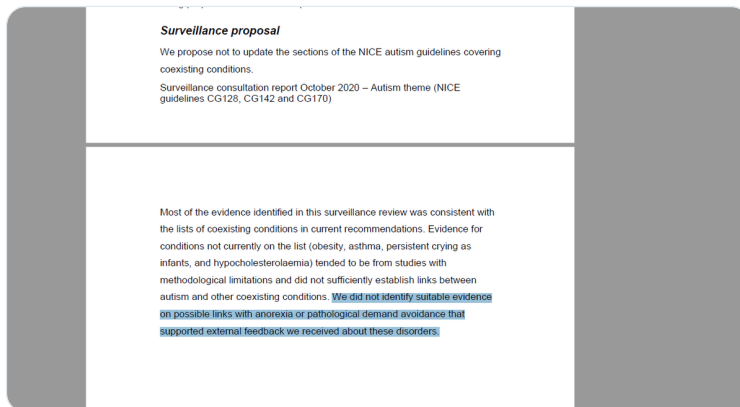
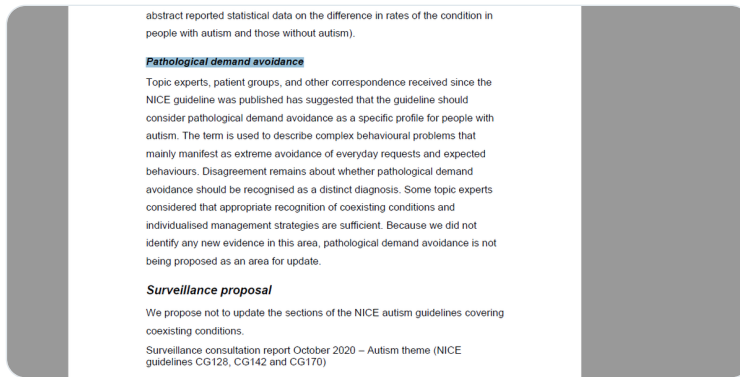
[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) guess what NICE response was to this request?

It was there is not enough evidence to change NICE guidelines, & it treated all expert opinion on PDA equally.

[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) link below to [@NICEComms](#) 2021 review of the literature regarding their under 19s autism guidelines.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128/documents/surveillance-review-proposal>

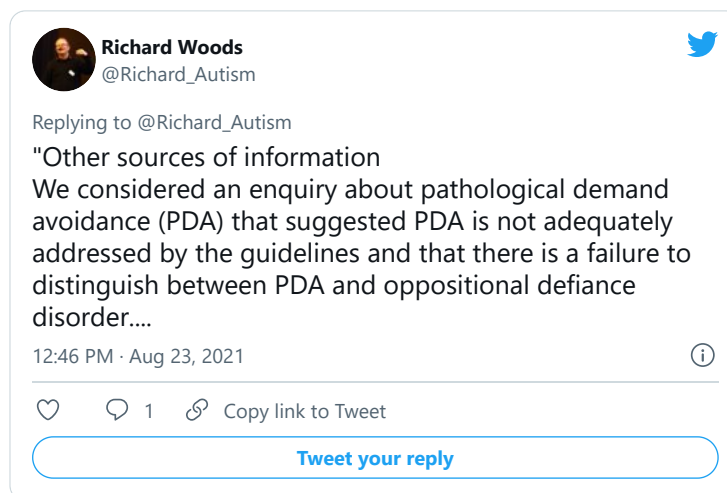





[@RikoRyuki](#) [@sallycatPDA](#) Relevant pages of NICE's review of the evidence to PDA are 10, 47, & 48.

[@NICEComms](#) as an organisation is important & is it sets clinical guidelines. It is more a reputable information than charities often are.

[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) Please see the various images in this thread, as I show where the information is. I am also trying to give you the relevant quotes, for ease of your own & other's access.



 **Richard Woods**
@Richard_Autism


Replying to @Richard_Autism

... Experts in this area informed us that PDA is not a recognised diagnosis in ICD-11 or DSM-V but its characteristics are considered to be part of the autistic spectrum disorder of diseases...

12:47 PM · Aug 23, 2021

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 **Richard Woods**
@Richard_Autism

Replying to @Richard_Autism

... There was no new evidence identified about PDA and clinical opinion is very mixed about its status as a distinct developmental condition. We therefore assessed this enquiry as having no impact on recommendations."

p10. Along with the previous image.

12:48 PM · Aug 23, 2021


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[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) see the previous tweet.

"We therefore assessed this enquiry as having no impact on recommendations."

NICE repeat point elsewhere, there is insufficient evidence to act suggestions to differentiate PDA from ODD in autistic persons.

 **Richard Woods**
@Richard_Autism

Replying to @Richard_Autism

"Topic experts, patient groups, and other correspondence received since the NICE guideline was published has suggested that the guideline should consider pathological demand avoidance as a specific profile for people with autism...

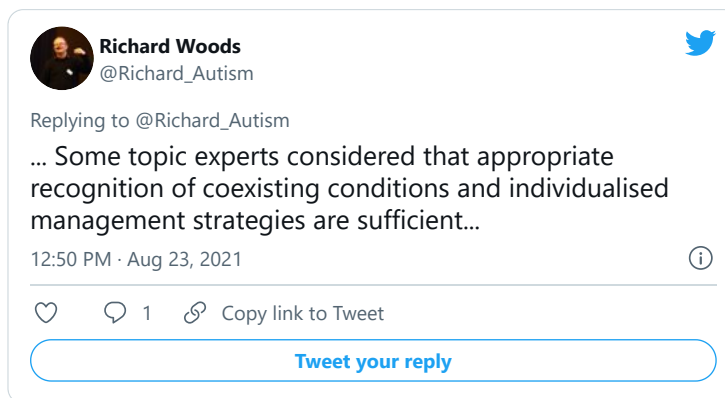
12:49 PM · Aug 23, 2021

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[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) see the previous tweet, note that [@NICEComms](#) accepted that those with PDA often face substantial difficulties. I.e., they accept that the difficulties are "real".



[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) note the previous tweet, where [@NICEComms](#) equally accepts divergent views on PDA, that its difficulties can be also be explained by accepted entities, like Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

 **Richard Woods**
@Richard_Autism

Replying to @Richard_Autism


... Because we did not identify any new evidence in this area, pathological demand avoidance is not being proposed as an area for update."

P47. It is the text on PDA in the previous image.

12:51 PM · Aug 23, 2021

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 **Richard Woods**
@Richard_Autism

Replying to @Richard_Autism

"We did not identify suitable evidence on possible links with anorexia or pathological demand avoidance that supported external feedback we received about these disorders."

P48, will be text in next image.

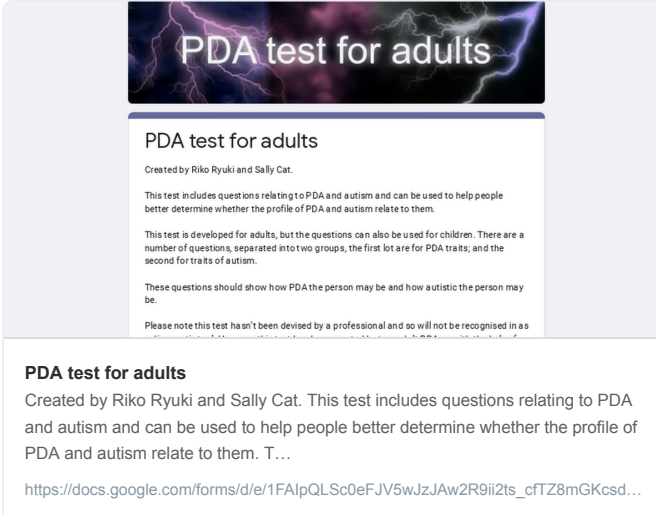
12:52 PM · Aug 23, 2021

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[@RikoRyuki](#) [@sallycatPDA](#) You should note that THREE times [@NICEComms](#) states it rejected request to better recognise PDA as an ASD, i.e., PDA is ONLY seen in autistic persons was rejected by NICE.

[@RikoRyuki](#) [@sallycatPDA](#) I accept you both mean well & are trying to help those who identify with PDA, with your "PDA test for adults". Link again will be provided in the next tweet.



PDA test for adults

Created by Riko Ryuki and Sally Cat.

This test includes questions relating to PDA and autism and can be used to help people better determine whether the profile of PDA and autism relate to them.

This test is developed for adults, but the questions can also be used for children. There are a number of questions, separated into two groups, the first lot are for PDA traits; and the second for traits of autism.

These questions should show how PDA the person may be and how autistic the person may be.

Please note this test hasn't been devised by a professional and so will not be recognised in a clinical setting.

PDA test for adults

Created by Riko Ryuki and Sally Cat. This test includes questions relating to PDA and autism and can be used to help people better determine whether the profile of PDA and autism relate to them. T...

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0eFJV5wJzJAw2R9ii2ts_cfTZ8mGKcsd...

[@RikoRyuki](#) [@sallycatPDA](#) Yet, it is too early & premature to include a subscale to assess for autism in PDA tools. It is both unethical to deny the rights & exclude non-autistic persons with PDA by including an autism subscale in your "PDA test for adults".

[@RikoRyuki](#) [@sallycatPDA](#) I do not know who, or if any researcher/ "expert" advised you on creating your "PDA test for adults"? Any reputable expert should be advising you to remove the autism subscale from it.

[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) including the autism subscale does not look reflect well on the persons who added it, due to how respected arbiters of clinical practice are taking a neutral position on PDA, & not assuming it is specific to autism.

[@sallycatPDA](#) [@RikoRyuki](#) I hope one/ both of you two, are open minded enough to listen to the information I have presented to you. That you remove the autism subscale from your "PDA test for adults".

This is the end of my points and questions.

[@threadreaderapp](#) Please can you unroll?

Thank you in advance?