



Richard Woods @Richard_Autism

Sep 6 · 18 tweets · [Richard_Autism/status/1567149290732109829](https://twitter.com/Richard_Autism/status/1567149290732109829)

A thing bothering me is PDA is not explicitly mentioned in NICE guidelines, at least easy to read ones. What is mentioned is "Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour).

p34 of CG128, guidance for assessing & diagnosing autism in children.

I have said this before that PDA is only kind of mentioned in one out NICE's three autism guidelines. The other 2, CG170 is guidance for how to manage autistic CYP. CG142 is guidance for assessing, diagnosing & how to manage autistic adults.

PDA, or "demand avoidance behaviour" is not mentioned in CG170, or CG142 of NICE guidelines.

Full guidelines for CG128, assessing & diagnosing autism un CYP, states PDA's demand avoidance can be described as Oppositional Defiant Disorder.

It also states:

"obsessive behaviours which are often person focussed with superficial social skills in whom the most striking feature is refusal to comply (excessive demand avoidance) even to events which the child enjoys." p288-289.

Suggesting demand-avoidance is by choice...

Link to appendix where above quote is from:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK92973/table/appendixes.app11.t1/?report=objectonly>

Link to CG128 brief guidance where quote for demand avoidant behaviour on p34 is from:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128/resources/autism-spectrum-disorder-in-under-19s-recognition-referral-and-diagnosis-pdf-35109456621253>

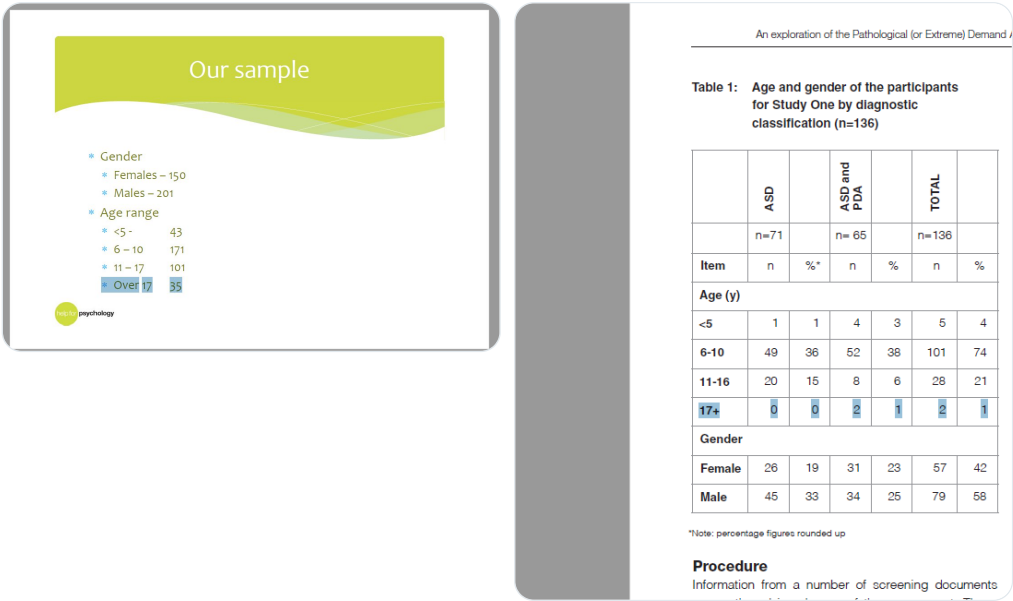
Elseswhere, I have critiqued

"Unusually negative response to the requests of others (demand avoidant behaviour)."

Here actually:

<https://rationaldemandavoidancecom.files.wordpress.com/2021/11/22-august-2021-why-demand-avoidant-behaviour-in-2018-nice-guidelines-for-autism-are-highly-problematic.pdf>

I am not critiquing the wording again. My issue is spurred on reflecting upon slide 14 of Eaton (2018 - Their NAS PDA conference talk), specifically the 35 in 17+ category. I also highlight corresponding row in table 1, from p37 of Eaton & Weaver.



The conference talk & article claim that it was only children who were assessed as part of the database in the study, if this was the case the category should be 17. It might be the case that this category only includes young persons, i.e., not adults.

Worth noting the clinic does advertise for private adult PDA assessments.

"Adult Assessments

Help for Psychology offers an independent assessment and diagnosis service for adults who are suspected of being Autistic, including the Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) profile."

Screenshot from relevant webpage.

Adult Assessments

Help for Psychology offers an independent assessment and diagnosis service for adults who are suspected of being Autistic, including the Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) profile.

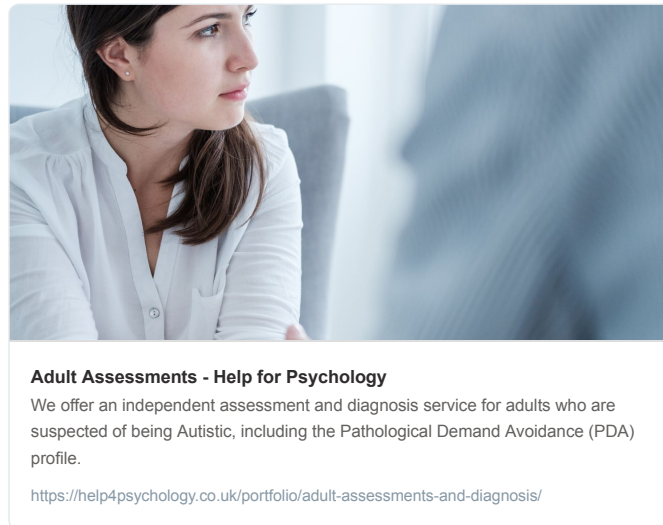
We offer two different assessments for adults. The first is a diagnostic opinion, which is aimed at adults who merely wish to understand themselves better. The other is a full multi-disciplinary assessment following NICE Guidelines, which is more suitable for adults who may wish to access local services for support post diagnosis.

Full multi-disciplinary assessment

For those who wish to undertake a full assessment the process is as follows:

- A meeting with the individual to establish current levels of functioning and motivation for seeking a diagnosis.
- A meeting with a parent/caregiver (where available) to obtain a full developmental history
- A pragmatic (social use of) language assessment by a Speech and Language Therapist
- A sensory screen

Link to the webpage where image is from:

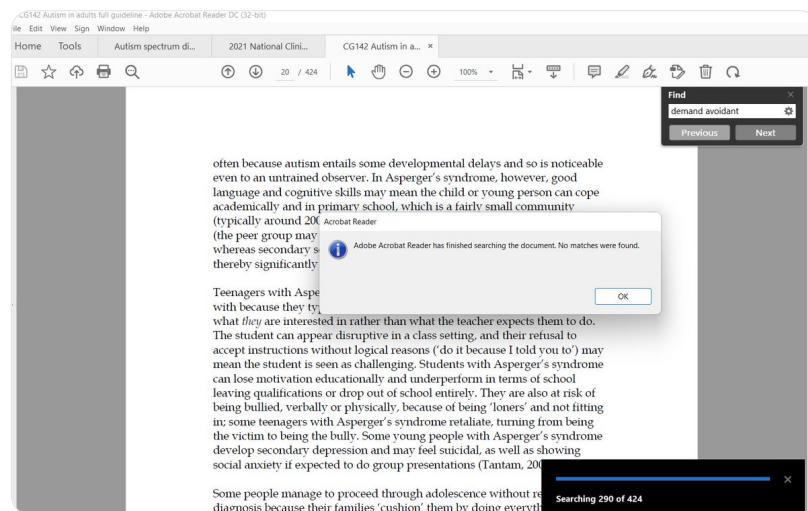


Website also goes on.

"We offer two different assessments for adults. The first is a diagnostic opinion, which is aimed at adults who merely wish to understand themselves better. The other is a full multi-disciplinary assessment following NICE Guidelines,..."

As pointed out earlier NICE guidelines for assessing & diagnosing autism in adults do not mention PDA, or "demand-avoidant behaviour". It is not mentioned in full 424 page guidance for CG142.

Image shows me searching document for reference to PDA & not finding any references.



So my question is:

How can one assess & diagnose PDA under NICE guidelines for assessing & diagnosing autism in adults (CG142), when PDA is not mentioned & thus not covered by those guidelines?

At the moment, it seems obvious to me that one cannot assess & diagnose PDA in adults under NICE guidelines CG142, as PDA is not mentioned, or covered by the relevant documents...

[@threadreaderapp](#) if you could please unroll?

Thank you in advance.

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