

Differential Diagnosis

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- [Center For Family Development](#)



DIFFERENTIAL DX: RAD-ADHD-BIPOLAR

	ADHD	BIPOLAR	RAD
Family history	ADHD	Mood	Abuse, MI, chem. abuse
Cause	Genetic	Genetic	Psychological secondary to neglect, abuse, abandonment
Destructiveness	Breaks things carelessly Non-Aggressive destructiveness	Occurs in anger During Temper Tantrums	Intentional



DIFFERENTIAL DX: ODD-CD, ASPERGER'S, OBSESSIVE

	ASPERGER'S	ODD & CD	OBSESSIVE
Family history	Increased frequency among family members	Serious marital discord	Increased frequency among family
Cause	Genetic	Social and psychological	Genetic
Destructiveness	Not a factor	Occurs in anger During Temper Tantrums	Not a factor

DIFFERENTIAL DX: RAD-ADHD-BIPOLAR

	ADHD	BIPOLAR	RAD
Temper Tantrums	Calms in 20-30	Act & feel angry for hours	In response to No...varies. Chronic, revenge
Regression	Rarely	Disorganized thinking	Lack of cause effect thinking
Moods	Dysphoria not present. Normal	Dysphoria, irritability,	Superficial



DIFFERENTIAL DX: ODD-CD, ASPERGER'S, OBSESSIVE

	ASPERGER'S	ODD-CD	OBSESSIVE
Temper Tantrums	Calms in 20-30 minutes	Calms in 20-30 minutes. Revenge	Calms in 20-30 minutes
Regression	No clinically significant language delay	None	None
Moods	Dysphoria not present. Normal	Dysphoria not present. Irritability	Anxiety present

DIFFERENTIAL DX: RAD-ADHD-BIPOLAR

	ADHD	BIPOLAR	RAD
Lying	Avoid adverse consequences	Enjoys getting away with it	Crazy lying
Motivation	Ok starters, poor finishers	Grandiose	Lack initiative. Feel ineffective & incapable
Substance Abuse	Strong tendencies: alcohol & pot	Strong tendencies: to modulate moods	Sporadic: need to be in control



DIFFERENTIAL DX: ODD-CD, ASPERGER'S, OBSESSIVE

	ASPERGER'S	ODD-CD	OBSESSIVE
Lying	Not a factor	Enjoys getting away with it	Not a factor
Motivation	Restricted repetitive and stereotyped patters of behavior, interests, or activities	Attention	Anxiety reduction, control
Substance Abuse	Not a factor	Strong tendencies in Conduct Disorder	May be a factor: self-medicating

DIFFERENTIAL DX: RAD-ADHD-BIPOLAR

	ADHD	BIPOLAR	RAD
Mood Stabilizers Atypical Antipsychotics	No effect	Improves behavior.	No Effect
Stimulants	Improves Behavior	No effect, worsens	No effect, worsens
Antidepressants	Wellbutrin may have some effect	WARNING may bring on mania	No effect

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	ASPERGER'S	ODD-CD	OBSESSIVE
Mood Stabilizers Atypical Antipsychotics	No effect	No effect	No effect
Stimulants	No effect	No effect, worsens	No effect, worsens
Antidepressants	No effect	No effect	SSRI's may help