

Eating Disorder

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Possible Eating Disorder?



Consider other causes of symptoms:

Malignancy
GI disorder like Crohn's disease or gastroesophageal reflux disease
Endocrine disorder like diabetes mellitus or thyroid issue
Depression, obsessive compulsive disorder
Chronic infection or disease
Superior mesenteric artery syndrome



Safety check: Suicidality?

Medically unstable?
(hospital criteria below)
Substance use?
Abuse victimization?



Diagnosis:

EAT-26 rating scale can be helpful for screening.
DSM-5 criteria.
Review serial height and weight measurements..
Inquire about changes in eating or exercise patterns, body image dissatisfaction, experiences of weight-based stigma, binge eating or purging, or laxative/ caffeine/nicotine/other substance use.



Management:

1. Initial lab: CBC, electrolytes, LFT, glucose, UA, TSH, baseline EKG
2. Offer guidance regarding reestablishing regular eating patterns.
Establish plan for follow up to monitor safety and progress.
3. Referral to a nutritionist, preferably one with eating disorder experience.
3. Referral to therapist, eating disorder experience preferred.
Family based treatment approach best for anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa.
Cognitive behavioral therapy may be considered for bulimia nervosa or binge eating.
4. Medications:
No FDA approved medications for anorexia nervosa. Fluoxetine FDA approved for treatment of bulimia in adults. Lisdexamfetamine FDA approved for treatment of binge eating in adults.
5. Consider hospital admission if:

Median BMI < 75th%ile for age/sex	EKG changes
Bradycardia	Electrolyte imbalance
Dehydration	Intractable vomiting
Hypothermia	Acute food refusal or precipitous weight loss
Orthostatic change to pulse or blood pressure	Lack of response to outpatient treatment
	Suicidal thoughts

Primary References:

Hornberger et al. (2021) Identification and Management of Eating Disorders in Children and Adolescents. *Pediatrics* 147(1).

Lock et al. (2015) Practice Parameter for the Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Eating Disorders. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* 54(5).

Eating Attitudes Test[©] (EAT-26)

Instructions: This is a screening measure to help you determine whether you might have an eating disorder that needs professional attention. This screening measure is not designed to make a diagnosis of an eating disorder or take the place of a professional consultation. Please fill out the below form as accurately, honestly and completely as possible. There are no right or wrong answers. All of your responses are confidential.

Part A: Complete the following questions:

1) Birth Date Month: Day: Year: 2) Gender: Male Female
 3) Height Feet: Inches:
 4) Current Weight (lbs.): 5) Highest Weight (excluding pregnancy):
 6) Lowest Adult Weight: 7) Ideal Weight:

Part B: Please check a response for each of the following statements:

	Always	Usually	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
1. Am terrified about being overweight.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
2. Avoid eating when I am hungry.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
3. Find myself preoccupied with food.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
4. Have gone on eating binges where I feel that I may not be able to stop.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
5. Cut my food into small pieces.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
6. Aware of the calorie content of foods that I eat.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
7. Particularly avoid food with a high carbohydrate content (i.e. bread, rice, potatoes, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
8. Feel that others would prefer if I ate more.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
9. Vomit after I have eaten.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
10. Feel extremely guilty after eating.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
11. Am preoccupied with a desire to be thinner.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
12. Think about burning up calories when I exercise.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
13. Other people think that I am too thin.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
14. Am preoccupied with the thought of having fat on my body.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
15. Take longer than others to eat my meals.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
16. Avoid foods with sugar in them.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
17. Eat diet foods.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
18. Feel that food controls my life.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
19. Display self-control around food.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
20. Feel that others pressure me to eat.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
21. Give too much time and thought to food.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
22. Feel uncomfortable after eating sweets.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
23. Engage in dieting behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
24. Like my stomach to be empty.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
25. Have the impulse to vomit after meals.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
26. Enjoy trying new rich foods.	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Part C: Behavioral Questions.

In the past 6 months have you:

	Never	Once a month or less	2-3 times a month	Once a week	2-6 times a week	Once a day or more
A. Gone on eating binges where you feel that you may not be able to stop?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Ever made yourself sick (vomited) to control your weight or shape?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Ever used laxatives, diet pills or diuretics (water pills) to control your weight or shape?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Exercised more than 60 minutes a day to lose or to control your weight?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Lost 20 pounds or more in the past 6 months	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			<input type="checkbox"/> No		

* Defined as eating much more than most people would under the same circumstances and feeling that eating is out of control.

Scoring the Eating Attitudes Test[©] (EAT-26)

The Eating Attitudes Test (EAT-26) has been found to be highly reliable and valid (Garner, Olmsted, Bohr, & Garfinkel, 1982; Lee et al., 2002; Mintz & O'Halloran, 2000). However the EAT-26 alone does not yield a specific diagnosis of an eating disorder.

Scores greater than 20 indicate a need for further investigation by a qualified professional.

Low scores (below 20) can still be consistent with serious eating problems, as denial of symptoms can be a problem with eating disorders.

Results should be interpreted along with weight history, current BMI (body mass index), and percentage of Ideal Body Weight. Positive responses to the eating disorder behavior questions (questions A through E) may indicate a need for referral in their own right.

EAT-26 Score

Score the 26 items of the EAT-26 according to the following scoring system. Add the scores for all items.

Scoring for Questions 1-25:

Always	=	3
Usually	=	2
Often	=	1
Sometimes	=	0
Rarely	=	0
Never	=	0

Scoring for Question 26:

Always	=	0
Usually	=	0
Often	=	0
Sometimes	=	1
Rarely	=	2
Never	=	3

Eating Disorder Resources

Information for Families

Books families may find helpful:

Helping Your Child Overcome an Eating Disorder: What You Can Do at Home (2003), by Teachman, Schwartz, Gordic and Coyle

Help Your Teenager Beat an Eating Disorder (2004), by James Lock and Daniel le Grange

ARFID Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder: A Guide for Parents and Carers (2019), by Rachel Bryant-Waugh

When Your Teen Has an Eating Disorder. Practical Strategies to Help Your Teen Recover from Anorexia, Bulimia and Binge Eating (2018), by Lauren Muhlheim PsyD

Off the C.U.F.F. (Calm, Unwavering, Firm and Funny) by Duke Eating Disorders Program, order info at www.dukehealth.org/treatments/psychiatry/eating-disorders

Life Without Ed: How One Woman Declared Independence from Her Eating Disorder and How You Can Too (2003), by Jenni Schaefer and Thom Rutledge

Books youth may find helpful:

Eating Disorders (2003), by Trudi Strain Trueit

No Body's Perfect (2002), by Kimberley Kirberger

Websites families may find helpful:

National Eating Disorders Association, provides information and referrals
www.nationaleatingdisorders.org

Academy for Eating Disorders, professional organization
<https://www.aedweb.org/home>

Seattle Children's, Eating Disorder Booklist and Resources
www.seattlechildrens.org/pdf/PE456.pdf

National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders
www.anad.org

This resource page is available in Spanish at
www.seattlechildrens.org/pal



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