
THE BIPOLAR SPECTRUM DIAGNOSTIC SCALE (BSDS)

Instructions:

Please read through the entire passage below before filling in any blanks.

Some individuals notice that their mood and/or energy levels shift drastically from time to time_____.

These individuals notice that, at times, their mood and/or energy level is very low, and at other times, very high_____.

During their "low" phases, these individuals often feel a lack of energy; a need to stay in bed or get extra sleep; and little or no motivation to do things they need to do_____.

They often put on weight during these periods_____.

During their low phases, these individuals often feel "blue", sad all the time, or depressed_____.

Sometimes, during these low phases, they feel hopeless or even suicidal_____.

Their ability to function at work or socially is impaired_____.

Typically, these low phases last for a few weeks, but sometimes they last only a few days_____.

Individuals with this type of pattern may experience a period of "normal" mood in between mood swings, during which their mood and energy level feels "right" and their ability to function is not disturbed_____.

They may then notice a marked shift or "switch" in the way they feel_____.

Their energy increases above what is normal for them, and they often get many things done they would not ordinarily be able to do_____.

Sometimes, during these "high" periods, these individuals feel as if they have too much energy or feel "hyper"_____.

Some individuals, during these high periods, may feel irritable, "on edge", or aggressive_____.

Some individuals, during these high periods, take on too many activities at once_____.

During these high periods, some individuals may spend money in ways that cause them trouble_____.

They may be more talkative, outgoing, or sexual during these periods_____.

Sometimes, their behavior during these high periods seems strange or annoying to others_____.

Sometimes, these individuals get into difficulty with co-workers or the police, during these high periods_____.

Sometimes, they increase their alcohol or non-prescription drug use during these high periods_____.

Now that you have read this passage, please check one of the following four boxes:

- ☐ This story fits me very well, or almost perfectly
- ☐ This story fits me fairly well
- ☐ This story fits me to some degree, but not in most respects
- ☐ This story does not really describe me at all

Now please go back and put a check after each sentence that definitely describes you.

Scoring: each sentence checked is worth one point. Add 6 points for "fits me very well," 4 points for "fits me fairly well," and 2 points for "fits me to some degree."

Total Score = _____

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SCORING INSTRUCTIONS

The BSDS scoring ranges from 0 to 25 points (see Table below). A total score from 20 to 25 points indicates that bipolar spectrum disorder is highly likely; a score from 13 to 19 indicates moderate probability; a score from 7 to 12 indicates low probability; and a score from 0 to 6 indicates that bipolar disorder is highly unlikely.

TOTAL SCORE	RANGE	LIKELIHOOD OF BIPOLAR DISORDER
	0 - 6	Highly unlikely
	7 - 12	Low probability
	13 - 19	Moderate probability
	20 - 25	High probability

Optimum threshold for positive diagnosis: score of 13 or above.