

Lisa Zakhary, MD PhD

Medical Director, Center for OCD and Related Disorders
Director of Psychopharmacology, Excoriation Clinic and
Research Unit

Massachusetts General Hospital

10/24/2021

Disclosures

Research Support: Promentis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



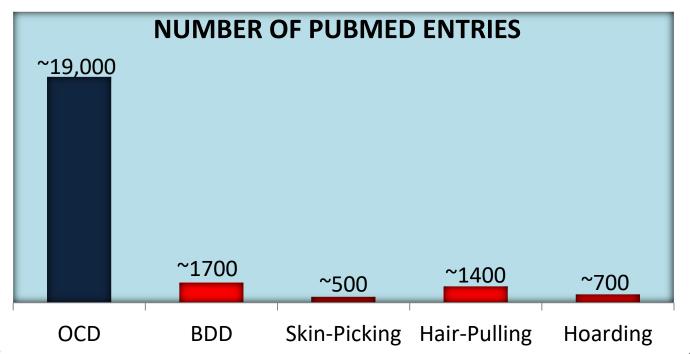
Image not reproduced for copyright reasons



Obsessive-Compulsive Related Disorders (OCRDs)

- Body Dysmorphic Disorder
- Excoriation (Skin-Picking) Disorder
- Trichotillomania (Hair-Pulling Disorder)
- Hoarding Disorder



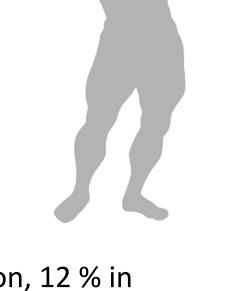






Clinical features of BDD

- Distressing preoccupation with imagined or slight defect in appearance
- Usually involves skin, hair, nose, but can involve any body part
- Variable insight, may be delusional
- Pts often present to a dermatologist or cosmetic surgeon
- Common: 2.4 % prevalence in general population, 12 % in outpatient dermatology clinic, and 33% in pts seeking rhinoplasty



Clinical features of BDD (cont.)

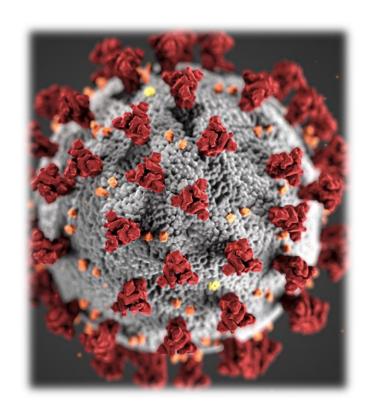


Repetitive behaviors

- Mirror checking
- Excessive grooming
- Camouflaging
- Comparing
- Reassurance seeking
- Avoidance, may be housebound
- SI common

BDD and COVID-19

- ↑BDD w/ pandemic
 - Prolonged view of self during video meetings
 - Zoom filters can create idealized images ("snapchat dysmorphia")
 - Working from home can increase time for repetitive behaviors
 - Isolation increases risk for SI





Diagnosis of BDD in DSM-5

- Preoccupation with perceived defects in physical appearance that are not observable or appear slight to others
- Individual performs repetitive behaviors (e.g. mirror checking) or mental acts (e.g. comparing appearance) in response to concerns
- Causes significant distress or impairment
- Not better explained by an eating disorder (e.g. concerns with body fat or weight

Specify insight: good/fair, poor, or absent/delusional



Treatment of BDD

- ~75% of BDD pts seek cosmetic treatments which only rarely improve BDD sx
- Pts with BDD much more likely to sue
- 4 surgeons murdered by pts with BDD
- Individuals who felt improved after cosmetic treatment often develop new appearance concerns
- SSRIs and CBT are first-line treatments for BDD
 - Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) effective
 - Fluoxetine, ~80 mg/d, RCT
 - Escitalopram, ~30 mg/d, open-label study and RCT
 - Citalopram, ~50 mg/d, open-label study
 - Fluvoxamine, ~210-240 mg/d, two open-label studies
 - Clomipramine, ~140 mg/d, RCT (non-selective SRI)
 - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) effective, effect size 1.78 in meta-analysis of BDD treatments

Which SSRI for BDD?

SSRIs thought to be equally effective but due to **high dose** requirements in BDD, SSRIs with **lower side effect profiles typically trialed first**

	Drug Name	Target Dose	Advantages	Disadvantages
٢	Escitalopram	20 mg/d	well-tolerated	
	Sertraline	200 mg/d	well-tolerated	
	Fluoxetine	8o mg/d	well-tolerated, long half- life, activating	drug interactions
	Citalopram	40 mg/d	well-tolerated	potential 企QTc, Reduced max dose may not be sufficient in BDD
	Paroxetine	6o mg/d		sedation, weight gain, short half-life
	Fluvoxamine	300 mg/d		sedation, weight gain
	Clomipramine	250 mg/d		Sedation, constipation, urinary retention, low BP, ①QTc seizures, drug interactions, weight gain, Considered second-line

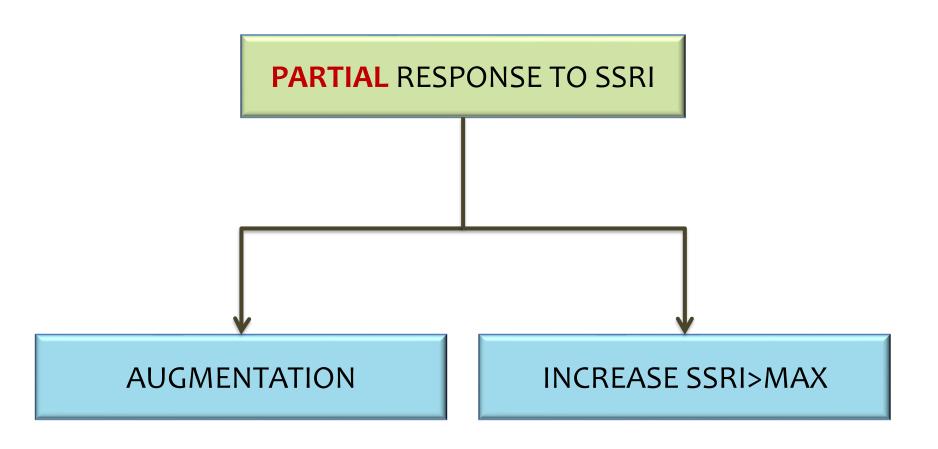


SSRI trial in BDD

- High doses (max or >max) often required
- Response delayed (4-6 wks for initial effect, 10-12 wks for full effect)
- Trial length: 12 wks (4-6 wks at the maximum tolerable dose)
- Rapid titration recommended
- Duration of treatment (not well-studied)
 - Only one relapse study to date, 40% relapse if SSRI stopped <6 mo
 - given lethality of BDD, SSRI recommended several years or longer



Approach to partially effective SSRI





SSRI augmenting agents in BDD

- Limited studies, very few options
- Buspirone (60 mg TDD) shows benefit in open-label & chart-review study
- Atypical antipsychotics-not well studied but often used
 - Aripiprazole, beneficial in 1 case report, 10 mg/d
 - Risperidone, beneficial in 1 case report, 4 mg/d
 - Olanzapine, mixed case reports (2 robust, 6 no effect), ~5 mg/d
 - In chart review study, only 15% respond to antipsychotic augmentation but effect size large
 - Typical antipsychotic pimozide, not efficacious in RCT
- Clomipramine, beneficial in 4 case reports, ~125 mg/d
 - Start low dose (25-50 mg) and monitor EKG and level while titrating

Above max SSRI dosing in BDD

	Drug	FDA Max Dose	Reported BDD >max dosing	My max dosing	Notes
	Escitalopram	20 mg/d	Up to 50 mg/d	30 mg/d	Check EKG
	Sertraline	200 mg/d	Up to 400 mg/d	300 mg/d	
	Fluoxetine	80 mg/d	Up to 100 mg/d	120 mg/d	
	Paroxetine	60 mg/d	Up to 100 mg/d	80 mg/d	
	Fluvoxamine	300 mg/d	Up to 400 mg/d		
	Citalopram	40 mg/d	Up to 100mg/d	80 mg/d	High dosing controversial given QTc prolongation risk, I consider with EKG, h/o failed medication trials, pt consent
	Clomipramine	250 mg/d			Above max dosing not recommended due to seizure risk

No guidelines on above maximum dosing in BDD exist – doses circled are generally well-tolerated in my practice



Sexual AEs

- Wait (sexual AEs can take 1-2 mo to improve)
- Add bupropion (not FDA-approved)
 - Dose-dependent, 2 RCTs, bupropion SR 150 mg daily ineffective, but 150 mg PO BID beneficial
 - Bupropion should not be combined with clomipramine given seizure risk
- Add Maca root (not FDA-approved), OTC
 - 2 RCTs for antidepressant-induced sexual dysfunction (men, women)
 - 500 mg PO BID x7d, then 1000 mg PO BID x7d, then 1500 mg PO BID
 - Consider checking TSH ~1 mo after starting
- Add buspirone (not FDA-approved)
 - Beneficial in RCT, ~48 mg TDD
- For ED, add sildenafil (or equivalent)
- Reduce SSRI or switch to different SSRI
- Flibanserin should not be combined with an SSRI



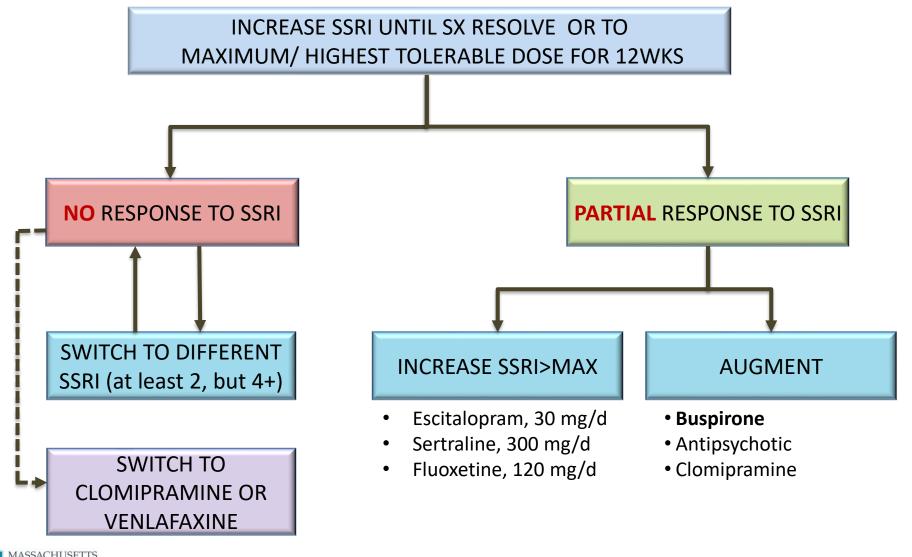


Limited alternatives to SSRIs in BDD

- Clomipramine, beneficial in RCT, ~140 mg/d, but second-line due to AEs
- SNRIs
 - Being evaluated in BDD given efficacy in OCD but studies limited
 - Venlafaxine, effective in small open-label study, ~150-225 mg/d
 - Duloxetine, not yet studied, sometimes used, option for pts with pain
- Levetiracetam effective in small open-label study, ~1000mg PO BID



Suggested medication approach to BDD



CBT for BDD

Cognitive restructuring

Challenge negative thoughts related to appearance

Response (ritual) prevention

• Limit BDD repetitive behaviors (e.g. mirror checking)

Behavioral experiments

• Carry out experiments to evaluate the accuracy of beliefs about appearance

Exposures

- Face situations which might normally be avoided
 - > RCT comparing CBT to waitlist shows 81% responder rate with CBT

CBT or medication?

CBT alone

- Mild impairment
- Pt refuses meds

CBT + meds

- Moderate/severe impairment
- When pt is too distressed to engage in CBT
- Pt has other major psychiatric comorbidities such as MDD/GAD/SI

Meds alone

- No access to CBT
- History of failed CBT
- Pt declines CBT



Delusional BDD

- Medication:
 - Antipsychotic monotherapy NOT proven to be effective
 - SSRIs are effective for pts with delusional BDD and considered first-line
 - For those lacking insight into BDD, pitch SSRI to other psychiatric sx (e.g depression, anxiety)
- Monitor closely for SI
- Try to delay planned cosmetic procedures



Etiology of BDD

Imagine that this sales clerk is looking in your direction



What is her facial expression?





Subjects with BDD

Imagine that this sales clerk is looking in your direction



What is her facial expression?





Subjects with BDD

Imagine that this sales clerk is looking in your friend's direction



What is her facial expression?







Clinical features of skin picking

- Prevalence 1.4-5.4%
- Women>>men
- <20% of pts who pick actually seek treatment
- Triggers
 - Removing a blemish
 - Coping with negative emotions (depression, anger, anxiety)
 - Boredom/idle hands (↑ w/ remote work during pandemic)
 - Itch
 - Pleasure
- Varying degrees of self-awareness
 - Focused picking
 - Automatic picking





Complications



- Scarring/disfigurement
- Avoidance
- Social and occupational dysfunction
- Cellulitis/sepsis
- Excessive blood loss
- Paralysis



Diagnosis of skin picking D/O in DSM-5

- Recurrent skin picking resulting in skin lesions
- Repeated attempts to stop picking
- Causes significant distress or impairment
- Not due to a substance (e.g., amphetamine, cocaine)
 - Substance-induced OCRD, e.g., Cocaine-induced OCRD
- Not due to a medical condition (e.g., HoTH, liver disease, uremia, lymphoma, HIV, scabies, atopic dermatitis, blistering skin disorders)
 - OCRD due to a medical condition, e.g., OCRD due to HIV with skin picking
- Not secondary to another mental disorder (e.g., delusions of parasitosis)



Treatment of skin picking

- Clinically, CBT considered first-line but no studies comparing meds to CBT
- Medication studies limited, SSRIs and N-acetylcysteine effective
- Consider dermatology referral
 - Skin care
 - Treatment of dermatologic triggers for picking (e.g., acne, itch)
- For moderate-severe cases or if indicated by clinical hx, check labs
 - CBC
 - CMP
 - TSH
 - Tox screen
 - +/- HIV



CBT for skin picking (and hair pulling)

Habit reversal training

- Awareness training- identify stimuli for picking or pulling
- Competing response- replace picking/pulling with harmless motor behavior

Cognitive restructuring

Challenge maladaptive thoughts related to picking/pulling

Stimulus control

- Modify environment to reduce opportunities to pick skin or pull hair (e.g., wear gloves)
- > RCT of HRT vs waitlist for skin picking shows 77% reduction in picking in HRT group, 16% WL



Stimulus control

















Device for awareness training





First-line medications for skin picking

SSRIs

- Limited data, but multiple studies showing that SSRIs can reduce skin picking
 - Fluoxetine, 2 positive RCTs (~55 mg/d, ~80mg/d)
 - Fluvoxamine (~110 mg/d), positive open label study
 - Escitalopram (~25 mg/d), positive open-label study
 - Sertraline (~100 mg/d), large case series (n=31) with 68% response rate
 - Citalopram 20 mg/d did not different from placebo in RCT but study was only 4 weeks and likely too short
- No direct comparative studies, SSRIs thought to be equally effective
- Unlike BDD and OCD, response not delayed, standard 8 wk trial advised

N-acetylcysteine (NAC)

- OTC glutamatergic modulator
- Addiction, gambling, OCD, schizophrenia, BPAD
- Significant improvement in RCT of pts w/ skin picking and RCT of hair pulling
- Beneficial in open-label study of skin picking in pts w/ Prader-Willi syndrome
- Start 600 mg PO BID x 2 wks, then 1200 mg PO BID (>6 week trial)
- Preferred to SSRI if no comorbid depression or anxiety



FDA and NAC

- Harder to get NAC in 2021
- July 2020, FDA sends warning letters to 7 companies **prohibiting the marketing of NAC as a dietary supplement** because NAC was approved as a drug (inhaled mucolytic for lung disease) in 1963.
- For now, still legal for companies to sell NAC because warning letter isn't a final agency action, but **Amazon stopped selling NAC** products in May 2021
- Council for Responsible Nutrition filed a petition to FDA in June 2021 to reverse this decision, more to come...



Other medications for skin picking

- Naltrexone, 50-100 mg/d
 - Opioid antagonist used in ETOH and opioid use, kleptomania, gambling
 - Only 2 case reports but often used given benefit in TTM & canine acral lick dermatitis
 - Hepatotoxicity with doses >300 mg/d, check LFTs 1m, 3m, 6m, yearly
- Mood stabilizers
 - Topiramate, 25-200 mg/d (open-label study, n=10), robust improvement
 - Lithium, 300-900 mg/d (case series, n=2)
- Atypical antipsychotics
 - Limited data but used given benefit in TTM
 - Aripiprazole, 5-10 mg/d (3 case reports)
 - Olanzapine, 5 mg/d, 10mg PO BID (2 case reports)
 - Risperidone, 1.5 mg/d (case report)
- Treatments for itch
 - Gabapentin (~100-1800 mg/d) or pregabalin (75-300 mg/d) can reduce itch, reviewed in Matsuda 2016
 - Hydrating lotion (e.g. hydrolatum, OTC); consider referral to derm for topical steroids, topical/oral antihistamines, etc.
- Others
 - Silymarin, from milk thistle, 150-300mg PO BID (case series, n=3), serious drug interactions
 - Inositol, 6g PO TID (case series, n=3), taken in powder form
 - > Titration; https://www.bfrb.org/learn-about-bfrbs/treatment/self-help/120-inositol-and-trichotillomania
 - Riluzole, 100mg PO BID, (case report), LFTs/CBC must be monitored given rare neutropenia and hepatitis, advise pt to report any febrile illness











Clinical features of TTM



- ~0.6-**3.4**% prevalence
- Women>>men
- Most often on scalp and eyebrows but may be anywhere including lashes, pubic hair, and others
- Hours daily
- Shame and avoidance
- Triggers: idle hands, anxiety, depression, anger, aesthetics, hairs not feeling right



Presentation







- Classic irregular hair pattern
- Hairs of varying length
- Normal hair density
- No scaling



Trichotillophagia

- Early satiety
- N/V
- Abdominal pain
- Weight loss



Trichobezoar



Diagnosis of TTM in DSM-5

Recurrent hair pulling resulting in hair loss

Repeated attempts to stop pulling

Causes significant distress or impairment

 Hair pulling not secondary to medical condition or mental disorder (e.g., OCD)



Treatment of TTM

- CBT considered first-line with ~65-70% response rate
- Medication studies limited: NAC, olanzapine, and clomipramine can help
- CBT more effective than meds (clomipramine/fluoxetine) in comparator studies but studies limited



First-line medications for TTM

- N-acetylcysteine (NAC), 1200 mg PO BID
 - Significantly improves TTM in single RCT (56% response rate)
 - OTC, 600mg PO BID x 2 wks, then 1200mg PO BID
- Olanzapine, ~10 mg/d
 - Significantly improves TTM in single RCT (85% response rate)
 - Use tempered by long-term metabolic risks, consider aripiprazole
- Clomipramine, ~100-180mg/d (mixed results)
 - Double blind crossover study of TTM showed CMI >> desipramine (~180 mg/d)
 - In placebo-controlled RCT, CMI doesn't differentiate from placebo (~100 mg/d)
 - Meta-analysis: clomipramine effect size .68 (moderate), habit reversal therapy effect size
 1.41 (large)



SSRIs generally ineffective in TTM

- No change in hair pulling in 3 RCTs (fluoxetine x 2, sertraline)
- No change in open-label trial of fluvoxamine
- Meta-analysis: SSRI effect size .02 (none), habit reversal therapy effect size
 1.41 (large)

HOWEVER, SSRIs are sometimes prescribed when anxiety/depression are clear triggers for pulling and can be helpful in isolated cases



Other medications for TTM

- Naltrexone, 50-100 mg/d
 - Mixed results in TTM
 - Beneficial in small RCT of adult TTM but no effect in larger RCT; specifically effective for pts with FH of addiction
 - Monitoring: hepatotoxicity with doses >300 mg/d, LFTs 1m, 3m, 6m, yearly
- Open-label studies
 - Topiramate (n=14), ~160 mg/d
 - Aripiprazole (n=12), ~7.5 mg/d, 58% response rate, alternative to olanzapine
 - Dronabinol (n=14), 2.5-5 mg PO BID, RCT ongoing now
- Other options
 - Lithium (case series, n=10), 900-1500 mg/d
 - Bupropion XL (case series, n=2), 300-450 mg/d
 - Inositol, (case series n=3 but not recent RCT), 6g PO TID
 - Titration; https://www.bfrb.org/learn-about-bfrbs/treatment/self-help/120-inositol-and-trichotillomania

www.mghcme.org



Additional management options

- Waterproof eyebrow stamps
- Magnetic false eyelashes
- Hairpieces/wig
- Toppik
- Hairdressers specializing in TTM



Toppik



Nail biting (AKA onycophagia)



- No formal dx in DSM-5→ Other Specified OCRD; Body-focused repetitive behavior (BFRB)
- Treatment <u>studies extremely limited</u>: treated like other BFRBs (skin picking and TTM) w/ CBT
- Introduce stimulus control early! Block access to nails
 - Bandaid/sheer micropore tape over nails
 - Gel nails may help



- Clomipramine/NAC can be considered
 - Clomipramine: Double-blind crossover study of clomipramine vs desipramine (adults, n=14, mean dose 120 mg/d), clomipramine reduces skin picking on 3 nail biting scales
 - NAC: 4 case reports (adults, 600mg PO TID-1000mg PO BID), sig improvement in nail biting
 - NAC: RCT (kids, n=42, 800 mg/d), nails regrow but effect is short-lived, dose may have been too low
- May also consider other medications that treat the trigger (depression, anxiety)





Hoarding



- Difficulty discarding items
- Significant clutter
- Often includes excessive acquisition
- **2-6%** prevalence, men=women
- Variable insight
- Health problems from dust, mold, or pests
- Injury/death from falling items, structural dangers, fire
- Removal of children/dependent adults
- Homelessness due to eviction
- Risks to neighbors



Diagnosis of hoarding in DSM-5

- Persistent difficulty discarding items regardless of value
- Difficulty due to need to save items and distress associated with discarding them
- Hoarding leads to clutter in active living areas
- Causes significant distress or impairment
- Hoarding not due to medical condition (e.g. Prader-Willi syndrome) or another mental condition (MDD, OCD)
 - Specify if with excessive acquisition
 - Specify insight: good/fair, poor, or absent/delusional



Assessing severity/safety

Clutter Image Rating: Living Room

Please select the photo below that most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in your room.

- Clutter Image Rating Scale (CIR)
- Activities of Daily Living-Hoarding Scale (ADL-H)
- Dependents/animals
- Eviction



















Treatment of hoarding

CBT is main treatment, no well-established medication treatments

Skills training

- Plan categories for unwanted objects
- Plan categories and final locations for wanted objects

Cognitive restructuring

Identify and challenge beliefs that maintain hoarding

Exposure to discarding and nonacquiring

- Make discarding hierarchy, start with items that are least anxiety-provoking
- Make non-acquisition trips
- RCT of CBT vs. waitlist, 41% show significant clinical improvement w/ large effect sizes on hoarding scales



Medication treatment of hoarding

- Meds (SSRIs) thought to be ineffective but being reconsidered
- Earlier studies not representative: excluded pts w/ hoarding who did not have other OCD sx
- Recent open-label studies w/o this exclusion show medication benefit:

Drug	Mean dose	UCLA Hoarding Severity Scale reduction	Partial responders	Full Responders
Paroxetine (n=79)	40 mg/d	31%	50%	28%
Venlafaxine (n=24)	200 mg/d	36%	70%	32%
Atomoxetine (n=11)	60 mg/d	41%	81%	54%

- Paroxetine/venlafaxine XR accelerate response from 26 wks (CBT)>12 wks
- Small case series (n=4, DSM-5 hoarding criteria) of methylphenidate ER (~50 mg/d): 50 % show modest reduction in hoarding sx despite not having ADHD

No medication RCTs in hoarding using updated exclusion criteria; consider trial of atomoxetine, venlafaxine, or SSRI based on above prelim data



Treatment tips for hoarding



Forced interventions not recommended



Team approach

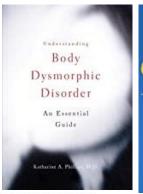
- family
- local hoarding task forces
- Tenancy Prevention Program
- Groups-MassHousing

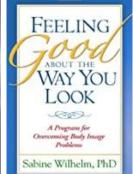


Resources

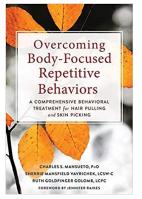
Patient/provider education, self-help

- Understanding Body Dysmorphic Disorder by Katharine Phillips (comprehensive overview for pts, families, and clinicians)
- Feeling Good About the Way You Look by Sabine Wilhelm (self-guided CBT for BDD)
- CBT for BDD, Treatment Manual by Sabine Wilhelm et al. (therapist guide)
- TLC Foundation for Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors, www.bfrb.org
- TTM, Skin Picking, & Other Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors by Jon Grant et al. (comprehensive overview for pts and providers)
- Help for Hair Pullers by Nancy Keuthen (self-guided CBT)
- Overcoming Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors by Dr. Charles Mansueto (self-guided CBT)
- Treatment of Hoarding by Gail Steketee and Randy Frost (CBT guide for therapists)
- Buried in Treasure by David Tolin et al. (self-guided CBT for hoarding)
- Free mobile apps: TrichStop, SkinPick, Perspectives (BDD app coached by live BDD CBT experts, in clinical trial)



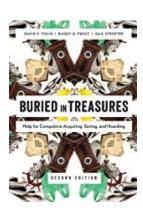














Resources (cont.)

Finding therapists

- International OCD Foundation, iocdf.org
- TLC Foundation for Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors, bfrb.org
- In MA, MGH OCD and Related Disorders Program, mghocd.org
- IOCDF Hoarding Center, hoarding.iocdf.org
- Mass Housing, MassHousing.com/hoarding (excellent local and national hoarding resources including task forces)
- MA hoarding directory,
 masshousingrental.com/portal/server.pt/document/11093/hoarding_resource_directory_pdf,
 (list of mental health professionals, professional organizers, and emergency clean out services including)
- Tenancy Prevention Program, mass.gov/info-details/tenancy-preservation-program

International OCD Foundation





Residential treatment

- McLean OCDI Institute, mcleanhospital.org/programs/ocd-institute-ocdi
- Rogers OCD Center, rogersbh.org/what-we-treat/ocd-anxiety/ocd-and-anxiety-residentialservices/ocd-center
- Houston OCD Program, houstonocdprogram.org/residential-support-program/



