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A Review of Purging Disorder Through Meta-Analysis

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Abstract

Although a growing body of research has examined Purging Disorder (PD), there remains a lack of conclusive evidence regarding the diagnostic validity of PD. This meta-analysis compared PD to *DSM-5* eating disorders (i.e., Anorexia Nervosa [AN], Bulimia Nervosa [BN], and Binge Eating Disorder [BED]) and controls. A comprehensive literature search identified 38 eligible studies. Group differences on indicators of course of illness and both general and eating psychopathology were assessed using standardized effect sizes. Results supported the conceptualization of PD as a clinically significant eating disorder, but findings were less clear regarding its distinctiveness from other eating disorder diagnoses. More specifically, PD significantly differed from BN and BED in natural course of illness ($g = .40-.54$), and PD significantly differed from AN in treatment outcome ($g = .27$), with PD characterized by a better prognosis. Overall, PD was more similar to AN and BED on many dimensional measures of general and eating-related psychopathology, though PD was less severe than BN in most of these domains. PD, BN, and BED groups also evidenced similar frequencies of subjective binge episodes (SBEs), yet PD evidenced less frequent SBEs than AN. There is a clear need for future studies of PD to assess validators that have not been reported comprehensively in the literature, such as mortality, medical morbidity, and course of illness. Additionally, empirical classification studies are needed to inform future classifications of PD, particularly with regard to categorical differences between PD and other eating disorders.

Keywords

eating disorders; eating disorder not otherwise specified; meta-analysis; other specified feeding or eating disorder; purging disorder

With the publication of the fifth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)*; (American Psychiatric Association, 2013), there have been changes to

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the diagnostic criteria for Anorexia Nervosa (AN), Bulimia Nervosa (BN), and Binge Eating Disorder (BED), in part to address the concerning finding that most individuals presenting for eating disorder (ED) treatment did not meet diagnostic criteria for one of the primary EDs in the *DSM-IV* (American Psychiatric Association, 2000; Fairburn & Bohn, 2005). Previously such individuals would have received a diagnosis of Eating Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (EDNOS), whereas the *DSM-5* includes the categories of Other Specified Feeding or Eating Disorder (OSFED) and Unspecified Feeding and Eating Disorder (UFED) to account for individuals with clinically significant ED symptoms who do not meet criteria for a full-threshold ED. OSFED in particular identifies a number of specific ED symptom constellations, several of which are consistent with primary *DSM-5* EDs, with certain exceptions such as limited duration (e.g., symptoms occurring for less than three months), low frequency (e.g., binge eating or purging occurring less than once per week), or atypical presentation (e.g., AN symptoms with significant weight loss, but current weight in the normal range).

One notable change to the *DSM-5* was the inclusion of Purging Disorder (PD) as one specified type within OSFED. PD is characterized by recurrent purging behavior (i.e., self-induced vomiting, laxative, and/or diuretic abuse) to influence shape or weight in the absence of objective binge eating episodes (OBEs; i.e., eating an unusually large amount of food and experiencing a concurrent sense of loss of control; Keel, Haedt, & Edler, 2005). Purging behavior is a particularly concerning clinical phenomenon in EDs, as it is associated with medical problems across body systems, including metabolic disturbances, electrolyte imbalances, edema, dental problems, esophageal tears and oral bleeding, swollen salivary glands, and musculoskeletal and gastrointestinal problems (Fairburn, 1985; Keel, 2005). Although earlier research documented symptoms consistent with PD among individuals with eating psychopathology (Mitchell, Pyle, Hatsukami, & Eckert, 1986), only since its formal introduction by Keel and colleagues (Keel, Mayer, & Harnden-Fischer, 2001; Keel et al., 2005) has the syndrome been the subject of more focused empirical research. The point prevalence of PD varies depending on the definition used (Crowther, Armye, Luce, Dalton, & Leahey, 2008; Haedt & Keel, 2010), though lifetime prevalence estimates have ranged from 1.1% (Favaro, Ferrara, & Santonastaso, 2003) to 5.3% (Wade, Bergin, Tiggemann, Bulik, & Fairburn, 2006).

To date, existing findings have generally supported the clinical significance of PD. For instance, compared with individuals without PD, those with PD exhibit higher levels of general psychopathology, distress, eating pathology, and personality disorders (Keel, Wolfe, Gravener, & Jimerson, 2008; Keel et al., 2005). However, research has yielded mixed findings regarding how PD compares to other EDs, particularly BN. For example, some studies have demonstrated that women with PD do not significantly differ from those with BN on measures of symptom severity, impairment, body dissatisfaction, or dietary restraint (Binford & Le Grange, 2005; Keel, Mayer, & Harnden-Fischer, 2001; Keel et al., 2005). In contrast, other literature suggests that, compared with individuals with PD, individuals with BN generally report greater eating psychopathology (Binford & Le Grange, 2005), lower self-esteem (Binford & Le Grange, 2005), and higher levels of general psychopathology, including mood disorders (Keel et al., 2008; Keel et al., 2005) and anxiety (Fink, Smith, Gordon, Holm-Denoma, & Joiner, 2009). Regarding mortality, one study reported the crude

mortality ratio of PD (5.0%) to be higher than both those of BN and AN purging subtypes, and the standard mortality ratio of 3.90 (95% confidence interval: 2.05, 7.21) suggested the elevated mortality risk in PD (compared with the general population) was not attributable to chance; however, it is unclear if this is a consistent finding in PD (Koch, Quadflieg, & Fitchter, 2013, 2014).¹ Further, empirical classification studies have yielded mixed findings regarding the distinctiveness of PD, with some identifying a latent class resembling PD (Striegel-Moore et al., 2005; Sullivan, Bulik, & Kendler, 1998), and others not consistently supporting this finding (Bulik, Sullivan, & Kendler, 2000; Keel et al., 2004; Wade, Crosby, & Martin, 2006). Notably, there remains a dearth of information on the course, outcome, or treatment response of PD (Keel & Striegel-Moore, 2009), as well as limited data regarding medical morbidity in PD and the degree to which purging behavior may indirectly contribute to mortality in EDs (Forney, Haedt-Matt, & Keel, 2014; Keel et al., 2008).

To date, only one meta-analysis (Thomas, Vartanian, & Brownell, 2009) has systematically compared EDNOS (now OSFED) to other ED diagnoses. Previous literature characterized EDNOS as comprising relatively heterogeneous subgroups, with the proportion of EDNOS cases resembling PD ranging from 11% (Eddy, Doyle, Hoste, Herzog, & Le Grange, 2008) to 43% (Binford & Le Grange, 2005). However, there were few studies specifying PD as an EDNOS subtype in Thomas et al.'s (2009) analyses ($k = 5$), and comparisons were only made between PD and BN on a limited number of outcomes. Although nosological changes reflected in the *DSM-5* may have addressed some of the diagnostic issues raised by Thomas et al.'s (2009) analyses (e.g., by reducing the frequency criterion for BN and including PD as an OSFED type), the extent to which PD represents a substantial proportion of those with clinically significant ED psychopathology remains unclear and thus warrants further investigation.

Current Conceptualization for Evaluating the Validity of PD

Taken together, the mixed nature of the aforementioned evidence raises a broader issue of the diagnostic validity of PD, particularly with regard to distinctiveness from other EDs. As such, to inform future classification systems and provide a conceptualization that has clinical utility, the present investigation sought to evaluate the clinical significance and diagnostic validity of PD using a hierarchical approach and meta-analytic methodology. First, we aimed to assess the clinical significance of PD by comparing PD samples with non-ED samples on general measures of severity (i.e., mortality, medical and psychiatric morbidity, impairment, quality of life.). Second, we sought to examine the validity of categorizing PD as an ED by comparing PD to non-ED samples on measures of body dissatisfaction, restraint, and eating psychopathology. Third, we evaluated the validity of PD as a distinct ED diagnosis by making comparisons between PD and established *DSM-5* diagnoses (i.e., AN, BN, BED) on measures of general and ED-related psychopathology.

The latter comparisons (i.e., between PD and other EDs) included multiple levels of evaluation. In the absence of alternative analytic approaches (e.g., taxometric or factor mixture analyses), the presence of purging and the lack of OBEs inherent in the definition of

¹Both studies reported data on the same sample.

PD limits the degree to which the validity of these characteristics can be assessed as meaningful boundaries with other EDs that are defined by different symptom topographies (i.e., AN which is associated with low weight; AN-restricting type [AN-r], which is not associated with recurrent OBEs; BN, which is associated with recurrent OBEs; and BED, which is associated with recurrent OBEs without regular purging or other compensatory behavior). However, comparing PD with other EDs on indicators of concurrent and predictive validity may provide empirical evidence to inform future classification systems² (Kendell, 1989). Moreover, there is evidence to suggest that EDs are more accurately categorized based upon both qualitative differences and the degree of underlying severity (Keel, Crosby, Hildebrandt, Haedt-Matt, & Gravener, 2013).

Thus, when evaluating the validity of a diagnostic category such as PD it is important to consider both categorical differences in symptom topography and dimensional differences in severity. With the understanding that there are some qualitative differences in the topography of symptoms between PD and other EDs, we aimed to compare PD with other EDs on dimensions of severity and theoretically salient constructs to assess whether (a) PD evidences distinct course of illness compared with other EDs (i.e., predictive validity); and (b) if the level of general psychopathology and ED-related psychopathology in PD is similar to or different from full-threshold *DSM-5* EDs (i.e., concurrent validity).

Predictive validity was evaluated by comparing PD with other EDs on variables related to course of illness, including mortality, age of onset, duration of illness, natural course outcome, treatment outcome, and treatment history. Consistent group differences in predictive validity would suggest that individuals PD exhibit a different trajectory of illness compared with other EDs, which may support distinctions between PD and other EDs in classification systems.

Concurrent validity was assessed by clinical features that were both non-ED and ED-related. Consistent with previous research (Keel et al., 2013), we used non-ED indicators (i.e., medical and psychiatric morbidity, general psychopathology, suicidality, impairment, quality of life) to compare groups along a continuum of severity that may underlie all EDs but differ in degree. Indicators of psychiatric morbidity and general psychopathology included depression, anxiety, substance use, impulsivity, perfectionism, and self-esteem. Similarly, we compared PD with other EDs on dimensional measures of ED-related psychopathology (i.e., restraint, body dissatisfaction, eating psychopathology, SBE and purging frequencies) to inform how PD compares to other groups in ED symptomatology. Similarities in general and ED-related validators would suggest PD is comparable with full-threshold diagnoses in overall severity, whereas differences may indicate PD represents a distinct syndrome differing in severity.

²Evidence for etiological validity was also considered as potentially informative of diagnostic validity, but was not included in the present study because of the current lack of such research in PD samples.

Method

Study Selection

To obtain a comprehensive list of studies for inclusion in this meta-analysis, a literature search was conducted using the PsycINFO, PubMed, Medline, and CINAHL electronic databases. To identify potential studies, the search parameters “purging disorder,” “subjective bulimia nervosa,” “compensatory eating disorder,” or “EDNOS-P” were entered adjacent to the terms “anorexi*³” or “bulimi,*” “binge eating disorder,” or “controls” to capture the full range of terminology used to refer to AN, BN, BED, PD, and controls. To avoid potential publication biases, the Dissertation Abstracts International electronic database was also included in the search.

The resulting list of articles was separately cross-referenced with the following search parameters: “mortality,” “morbidity,” “comorbid*,” “psychiatric,” “medical,” “suicid*,” “psychopathology,” “impairment,” “quality of life,” “symptom,*” “body dissatisfaction” or “body satisfaction,” “depression,” “anxiety,” “self-esteem,” “impuls*,” “perfectionism,” “treatment,” “history,” “outcome,” “course,” “age of onset,” “duration,” and “eating psychopathology” (or “eating disturbance”). References of the identified studies were searched to further identify studies for inclusion.

Eligibility Criteria

The following inclusion criteria were applied:

1. Only empirical studies were included so as to allow for the calculation of the standardized mean difference (i.e., effect size) of dependent variables among the subgroups.
2. Only studies that compared AN, BN, BED, or non-ED control groups with PD on the dependent variables of interest were included. Comparison groups (AN, BN, BED) that included subclinical forms were not included given that the present study aimed to examine PD in relation to full-threshold EDs as defined in *DSM-5* (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).
3. Only studies written in English were included, although the country in which the data were collected was not restricted.

We contacted all authors to inquire about possible additional data that were not reported in the manuscript, when there was insufficient data to calculate necessary effect sizes, and when studies appeared to have overlapping samples; we also inquired about possible additional data that was not reported in the manuscript. Six authors provided additional data, some of which were not reported in publications. Six studies (Brown, Haedt-Matt, & Keel, 2011; Edler, Haedt, & Keel, 2007; Keel, Wolfe, Liddle, De Young, & Jimerson, 2007; Keel, Holm-Denoma, & Crosby, 2011; Stice, Marti, Shaw, & Jaconis, 2009; Wade, Fairweather-Schmidt, Zhu, & Martin, 2015) were excluded because they used the same sample as other studies that were identified (Keel et al., 2008; Keel et al., 2005; Stice, Marti, & Rohde, 2013;

³The “*” allows for the identification of terms that begin with the same stem but have multiple endings in the PsycINFO search engine.

Wade, Bergin, Tiggemann, Bulik, & Fairburn, 2006; Wade, 2007). Thus, 38 studies were identified for inclusion, one of which was an unpublished dissertation. Figure 1 depicts a flow diagram of the study selection process.

Data Collection

A coding form was developed to extract descriptive and quantitative information from each study (e.g., means, standard deviations, and subsample sizes; means, and exact/categorical p values; (Lipsey & Wilson, 2001). Table 1 describes all coded comparisons, dependent variables, and moderators.

The first author screened, identified, and coded all studies, and the second author recoded all published studies. Acceptable agreement was found between the two coders on categorical variables ($\kappa = .90$), and the percent exact agreement on quantitative variables was 95.3%. Coders resolved disagreements by discussion. To compare group means on dependent variables, effect sizes were calculated as standardized mean differences, Hedge's g , which is appropriate for use with small sample sizes (Hedges, 1981). The values of g were interpreted such that magnitudes of 0.2, 0.5, and 0.8 represented small, medium, and large effects, respectively (Hedges, 1981).

Because meta-analysis requires independence for each study in analyses, each study could only contribute one effect size per comparison (Lipsey & Wilson, 2001). Thus, to adjust for dependencies among effect sizes, when studies reported data on multiple measures of the same construct (e.g., two measures of body dissatisfaction), the measures were averaged to create a composite measure that was used in effect size calculations.

Statistical Analyses

To determine the values and significance of mean effect sizes for each comparison, a random effects model was applied. A random effects model assumes that the variability is attributable to both within-study sampling error as well as random, between-study variance, that is, τ^2 (Hedges & Pigott, 2004; Lipsey & Wilson, 2001). The random effects model is often preferred because it takes into account possible variations in study procedures and settings, and the resulting findings are considered to be more generalizable (Lipsey & Wilson, 2001; Rosenthal, 1995). However, for comparisons consisting of five or fewer studies, a fixed effect model was applied (Borenstein, personal communication during workshop, 2013). To balance the importance of reaching conclusions with the issues of statistical power (Valentine, Pigott, & Rothstein, 2010), only comparisons that were comprised of at least three effect sizes were interpreted, though all comparisons were coded and reported in tables.

The present study used both the Q statistic and the I^2 statistic to assess the heterogeneity of effect size distributions. The Q statistic has poor power to detect true heterogeneity when the meta-analysis includes a small number of studies, whereas the I^2 statistic is not dependent on the number of studies in the meta-analysis (Higgins & Thompson, 2002). While the Q statistic assesses the statistical significance of heterogeneity, the I^2 statistic indicates the proportion of total variability in a set of effect sizes that is attributable to true between-study differences (Huedo-Medina, Sánchez-Meca, Marín-Martínez, & Botella, 2006). It has been

suggested that the I^2 statistic be interpreted such that percentages of 25, 50, and 75 represent low, medium, and high degrees of between-study variability, respectively. Furthermore, Fu and colleagues (2011) have advised requiring a minimum of four studies at each level to pursue analyses with categorical moderators.

Therefore, if the Q and I^2 statistics together suggested substantial heterogeneity in the observed effect size distribution (as indicated by a significant Q value and I^2 statistic $\geq 75\%$), and there were at least four studies at each moderator level for which there was available data, follow-up moderator analyses were conducted to model between-study variance. That is, moderation analyses assessed whether categorical study descriptors accounted for a statistically significant proportion of the effect size variability (Lipsey & Wilson, 2001). In the moderator analyses, the difference between effect sizes across different levels of the moderator was assessed by computing the between-groups homogeneity statistic, Q_B . Comprehensive Meta-Analysis Version 3.0 (Borenstein, Hedges, Higgins, & Rothstein, 2014) and SPSS version 24.0 were used to conduct statistical analyses.

Publication Bias

To minimize publication bias (i.e., the file drawer problem) we included both published articles and unpublished dissertations in our search process. After completing analyses, the presence of publication bias was assessed to determine whether it was likely that the publication of only significant results accounted for the observed effects. This was done by calculating the fail-safe N , which is the number of studies with a g of 0 that would bring the overall effect size to a nonsignificant level (Rosenthal, 1979).

Results

The 38 studies ranged in year of publication from 1997 to 2016. Sample sizes ranged from 56 to 13,035 ($Md = 433.50$, $M = 1,147.89$, $SD = 2,171.21$). On average, participants were 23.50 years old ($SD = 7.03$) and had a BMI of 24.54 ($SD = 4.58$). Samples were predominately female ($M = 95.6\%$ female, $SD = 9.51$), and mostly Caucasian ($M = 74.17\%$ Caucasian, $SD = 14.95$). Table 2 summarizes descriptive information and coded moderators. Table 3 displays overall effect sizes, heterogeneity statistics, and fail-safe N s; Table 4 summarizes significant moderation analyses; and Table 5 contains individual effect sizes for each study.

PD Versus Controls

Compared with control groups, PD groups reported higher levels of suicidality, depression, anxiety, impulsivity, substance use, dietary restraint, body dissatisfaction, and eating psychopathology. Large effect sizes were observed for all comparisons with the exception of a small effect for differences in substance use. Although the comparison of suicidality yielded a marginal significance value ($p = .050$), the effect size was large in magnitude ($g = 1.94$) and associated with a robust fail-safe N of 583. No comparisons of mortality were available, and limited data were found for comparisons of medical morbidity, quality of life, and functional impairment. Method of diagnosis and purging frequency criteria were

investigated as potential moderators of eating psychopathology comparisons, but these variables did not account for significant variability in the effect size.

PD Versus AN

PD groups evidenced a later age of onset, better treatment outcomes, and less treatment history compared with AN groups, with small to medium effects for these comparisons; conversely, PD and AN groups did not differ in duration of illness. PD groups evidenced higher levels of substance use and self-esteem, representing small and medium effects sizes, respectively. With respect to ED constructs, PD groups reported more frequent purging behavior (medium effect size), less frequent SBEs (small effect size), and higher levels of dietary restraint (small effect size). There were no significant differences in suicidality, depression, anxiety, perfectionism, eating psychopathology, or body dissatisfaction. No comparisons of PD and AN on levels of medical morbidity, quality of life, or impulsivity were available, and very few studies were found comparing AN and PD in mortality, impairment, or outcome over the natural course of illness.

PD Versus AN Moderations

Although the overall PD/AN differences in eating psychopathology and body dissatisfaction were nonsignificant, there was a high degree of variability in these effect sizes that warranted investigation of moderators. Differences in eating psychopathology and body dissatisfaction were moderated by the inclusion of SBEs in PD diagnostic criteria, such that the direction of the effect was positive (and statistically significant in the case of body dissatisfaction) when PD criteria allowed SBEs, but negative (and not significant) when SBEs were not specified. Thus, when SBEs were included in the PD diagnostic criteria, PD groups reported significantly greater body dissatisfaction than AN groups.

PD Versus BN

Compared with BN groups, PD groups evidenced a later age of onset and better outcomes over the natural course of illness, with small to medium effects; however, groups did not differ in duration of illness, treatment outcome, or treatment history. With respect to non-ED validators, PD was lower in depression (small effect), impulsivity (medium effect), and perfectionism (small to medium effect), and higher in self-esteem (small to medium effect); however, groups did not differ significantly in suicidality, substance use, or anxiety. Regarding ED-related constructs, compared with BN groups, PD groups evidenced lower frequencies of purging (small effect) and lower levels of eating psychopathology (large effect) and body dissatisfaction (small effect); group differences for restraint and SBE frequencies were nonsignificant. No comparisons of PD and BN in terms of medical morbidity were available, and limited data were found regarding mortality, quality of life, and functional impairment. Although moderators were investigated for comparisons of SBE frequency, depression, anxiety, eating psychopathology, self-esteem, and perfectionism, no moderator emerged as significant for these effects.

PD Versus BED

Compared with BED groups, PD groups evidenced a shorter duration of illness and better natural course outcome, with small to medium effect sizes, but groups did not differ in age of onset. In regards to non-ED domains, groups did not differ in suicidality, depression, anxiety, or perfectionism. In terms of ED-related domains, there were not significant group differences in SBE frequency, eating psychopathology, or body dissatisfaction, though PD groups were higher in restraint (medium effect). Comparisons of PD and BED in mortality, medical morbidity, and quality of life were unavailable, and there were insufficient data for comparisons of impairment, impulsivity, treatment outcome, treatment history, and self-esteem. Moderators were explored for PD/BED comparisons of eating psychopathology, though none emerged as significant.

Publication Bias

We investigated possible publication bias (i.e., the file drawer problem) by calculating the fail-safe N (Rosenthal, 1979) for significant overall effect sizes (see Table 3), which indicates the number of studies with a null effect that would render the observed overall effect nonsignificant; thus, higher values indicate more robust effects. Given the results of these calculations, it is likely that all PD/Control comparisons (fail-safe N 's ranging from 102 to 1,131) are robust. Fail-safe N analyses also demonstrated robust PD/BN differences in eating psychopathology, body dissatisfaction, purging frequency, perfectionism, self-esteem, depression, impulsivity, and age of onset, with fail-safe N 's ranging from 25 to 3,585; however the difference in natural course outcome appeared less reliable (fail-safe N = 10). Fail-safe N analyses for PD/AN comparisons appeared most stable for differences in age of onset, treatment history, treatment outcome, and purging frequency (fail-safe N : 18 to 59), but less so for substance use (fail-safe N = 5) and restraint (fail-safe N = 4), which is likely related to the small number of studies that contributed to these effects (substance use: k = 4; restraint: k = 5). Regarding significant PD/BED effects, the difference in duration of illness appeared more robust (fail-safe N = 23) than the difference in natural course outcome (fail-safe N = 11). Although there is not a clear threshold at which fail-safe N values deem effects uninterpretable because of bias, these values provide perspective regarding the likelihood that publication bias may have influenced results. Thus, interpretations regarding PD/BN and PD/BED differences in natural course outcome, and the PD/AN differences in substance use and restraint, should be made more cautiously.

Discussion

This meta-analysis compared PD with established *DSM-5* EDs (i.e., AN, BN, BED) and non-ED controls on indicators of course of illness and severity, including both general and ED-related psychopathology. Specifically, we sought to (a) evaluate the clinical significance of PD, (b) examine the validity of its categorization as an ED, and (c) provide evidence to inform its conceptualization as a distinct ED diagnosis by assessing domains related to predictive and concurrent validity.

PD as a Clinically Significant ED

Although limited data were found on general severity indicators (i.e., mortality, medical morbidity, quality of life, impairment), results provided robust support for the clinical significance of PD, as evidenced by higher levels of suicidality and psychiatric morbidity (i.e., depression, anxiety, substance use, impulsivity) in PD compared with controls. However, the dearth of data on mortality, medical morbidity, quality of life, or impairment in PD highlights the need for future comparisons in these domains. Findings also supported the inclusion of PD in a class of psychiatric disorders that are characterized by ED psychopathology, as demonstrated by higher levels of ED-related psychopathology (i.e., eating psychopathology, restraint, body dissatisfaction) in PD compared with controls. These findings are consistent with previous research (Keel & Striegel-Moore, 2009; Keel et al., 2011) and extend the current literature by providing comprehensive empirical support for conceptualizing PD as a clinically significant ED.

PD Versus Other EDs: Are There Significant Differences in Trajectories of Illness?

In addition, we reported evidence regarding the predictive validity of PD. One question that arises with respect to predictive validity is whether PD has a different trajectory of illness than the full-threshold disorders of AN, BN, and BED. Though the effect sizes were small to medium, findings suggest meaningful differences from AN regarding the trajectory or course of illness, in that AN appears to be associated with an earlier onset, more treatment history, and poorer treatment prognosis. Such findings are in line with prior research documenting low efficacy of treatment (Bulik, Berkman, Brownley, Sedway, & Lohr, 2007) and chronic course (Steinhausen, 2009) in AN. Thus, AN appears to represent a more pernicious ED, which is consistent with the high degree of mortality and medical complications in AN (Arcelus, Mitchell, Wales, & Nielsen, 2011; Mitchell & Crow, 2006).

PD was associated with a better prognosis over the natural course of illness compared with BN and BED, though these effects were based on a relatively small number of studies and are in need of further replication. PD groups also had a later age of onset than BN groups and a shorter duration of illness than BED. It may be that the presence of OBEs is related to a more chronic course, as studies have found that upward of 20% of BN cases demonstrate chronicity (Steinhausen & Weber, 2009). With respect to the PD/BED comparisons, the presence of OBEs may be particularly powerful in maintaining the cycle of eating psychopathology for BED as well; furthermore, the presence of purging in PD may be experienced as comparatively more aversive, enhancing the desire to cease such behavior, and potentially contributing to the shorter duration of illness observed in PD versus BED. Interestingly, there were not significant differences between PD and BN with respect to treatment history or treatment outcome, suggesting that these groups may respond similarly to interventions targeting bulimic psychopathology.

PD Versus Other EDs: Are There Significant Differences in Severity of Non-ED and ED-Related Constructs?

This meta-analysis also addressed whether PD differed from AN, BN, and BED on various constructs related to concurrent validity, specifically general and ED-related psychopathology. Results suggested that overall and with a few exceptions, BN groups

demonstrated greater severity on these dimensions. Specifically, PD groups experienced lower levels of depression, impulsivity, perfectionism, and higher levels of self-esteem than BN groups; PD groups also evidenced lower levels of eating psychopathology, body dissatisfaction, and less frequent purging. These findings could suggest that these specific domains are more severe in the presence of the OBEs that characterize BN. This is in line with a recent study of BN and PD that found the size of binge episodes explained additional variance in general and ED-related features beyond loss of control, and the relationship between loss of control eating, purging frequency, and depressive symptoms was stronger with larger binge sizes (Forney, Bodell, Haedt-Matt, & Keel, 2016). Furthermore, given suggestions that purging behavior may function to temporarily reduce aversive affective experiences associated with binge eating (Haedt-Matt & Keel, 2011), the lack of OBEs in PD may mitigate one of the primary functions of purging that serves to maintain and potentially exacerbate the behavior in other EDs characterized by OBEs.

Notably, the nonsignificant differences in restraint and SBE frequency provides evidence that individuals with PD and BN do not differ in the degree to which they attempt to restrict their intake and experience episodes of loss of control over eating normal amounts of food. A useful area for future studies would be to assess possible similarities in the antecedents and consequences of purging in PD and BN, as understanding the potential functional nature of purging in PD may further inform its conceptualization in diagnostic systems, as well as its treatment. More specifically, although PD and BN may differ in severity, as the current results suggest, there may be commonalities in the functions of their overlapping symptomatology (e.g., affect regulation).

There were far fewer significant differences between PD and AN and between PD and BED, respectively. PD groups demonstrated significantly higher levels of restraint than both AN and BED groups, though these effects were based on a small number of studies, and thus should be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless, the finding that PD was higher in restraint than AN is notable in light of theoretical (Lowe, 1993; Polivy & Herman, 1985) and empirical literature (Elran-Barak et al., 2015; Stice, Davis, Miller, & Marti, 2008) documenting the relationship between restraint, dieting, and binge eating, possibly suggesting those with PD may be more predisposed to develop loss of control eating behavior than those with AN.

At the same time, though based on a limited number of studies, it is also interesting that PD groups reported more frequent purging but less frequent SBEs than AN groups. One possible explanation is that regular purging provides a sense of control over one's caloric intake, whereas those with AN who do not purge have a stronger or more frequent sense of loss of control associated with eating. However, given that there was an insufficient number of studies to assess AN subtype as a potential moderator of this effect, it is unclear how SBEs and purging in PD compare to AN-r and AN-bp (which is also characterized by purging behavior). With respect to PD/BED differences in restraint, it may be that individuals with PD are more successful in attempting to limit their intake, given the objectively large quantities of food characterizing OBEs in BED.

Implications of Moderators

Although there were insufficient data to assess many of the coded moderators, it is notable that moderations were observed in PD/AN comparisons for which overall effects were nonsignificant. When PD diagnoses allowed for the inclusion of SBEs, PD groups evidenced significantly higher body dissatisfaction and higher (albeit nonsignificant) levels of eating psychopathology than AN groups; however when the inclusion of SBEs was not specified the direction of the effect was reversed, though nonsignificant. Thus, when PD includes loss of control eating behavior, it appears there is a trend for PD to be associated with greater severity in some eating-related symptoms compared with AN.

This finding is interesting in light of previous research documenting that the presence of loss of control eating is associated with impairment regardless of overeating (Forney et al., 2014; Goldschmidt et al., 2008); however, a recent study has suggested that PD was generally similar in psychopathology to other EDs characterized by purging (i.e., AN-bp and BN), regardless of loss of control eating (Goldschmidt et al., 2016). Therefore, the extent to which loss of control eating or purging behavior accounts for differences in degrees of severity between PD and other EDs such as AN is unclear, and future research is needed to assess possible variations in PD/AN differences according to AN subtypes.

Clinical and Theoretical Implications

The aforementioned results regarding general and ED-related validators are clinically meaningful in that they provide information about the course of illness and degree of severity in AN, BN, and BED compared with PD. In line with the Three-Dimensional Model (Williamson, Gleaves, & Stewart, 2005), differences in general and ED-related validators may represent variations along a continuum of psychopathology associated with EDs, though EDs may also differ categorically in some domains (e.g., the presence of OBEs). Notably, a recent factor mixture analysis of bulimic syndromes indicated a single latent severity dimension in combination with three distinct classes, but did not support clear distinctions between BN, PD, and AN-bp. Rather, the majority of PD cases were subsumed with BN and AN-bp cases in a class characterized by purging, weight phobia, and a higher level of comorbidity (Keel et al., 2013). Taken together with the present results, PD may exist along a dimension of severity within bulimic spectrum disorders characterized by loss of control eating and purging behavior. Importantly, the qualitative differences in symptoms characterizing these ED diagnoses and the approach to examining dimensional constructs in this review preclude the ability to make any firm conclusions about categorical diagnostic differences. Thus, the varying degrees of general and ED-related severity across ED diagnoses in the present meta-analysis should be considered in conjunction with inherent qualitative differences in the topography of symptoms and clinically meaningful differences in severity of EDs, both of which are fundamental to establishing diagnostic validity.

Although the analytic approach of this meta-analysis could not evaluate possible taxonic distinctions between PD and other EDs, the present results nevertheless have clinical utility and provide information that may inform future classification research. First, it is clear that PD is a clinically significant ED that warrants intervention, though little research thus far has focused on the treatment of PD. Second, there are meaningful differences in severity

indicators (i.e., predictive and concurrent validity) that could suggest there is clinical utility in distinguishing PD from other EDs. Specifically, PD was associated with a better prognosis compared with other EDs and lesser severity of symptoms compared with BN. This information may allow clinicians to more clearly conceptualize PD, and thus may provide guidance for interventions and treatment planning.

Results also highlighted the potential importance of loss of control eating (both SBEs and OBEs) and purging as possible indicators of severity as well as qualitative differences in symptomatology among EDs. Given that SBEs were evidenced by all ED groups, loss of control over eating could be a transdiagnostic symptom that varies in frequency but not in presence. Thus, SBEs may be a general indicator of severity, which has been supported by previous research (Forney et al., 2014). This was evidenced by PD/AN moderation analyses in the present study, as well as research documenting associations between loss of control eating and indicators of general and ED-related severity (Forney et al., 2014).

It is also notable that PD was associated with more frequent purging than AN but less than BN, which is likely related to the inclusion of both AN-r (which is not associated with purging) and AN-bp in AN comparison groups. Although the presence of regular purging behavior signifies a qualitative difference between some diagnoses (i.e., PD and BED, and PD and AN-r), the frequency of purging, like SBE frequency, may also be an indicator of severity across purging-type disorders, which is in line with previous empirical classifications (Keel et al., 2013) and findings demonstrating associations between loss of control eating and purging frequency (Forney et al., 2016). However, because it was not possible to assess AN subtypes as moderators of differences in purging frequencies in the present study, further research is needed to compare AN-bp, PD, and BN in purging frequency and its relationship to the severity of associated symptoms.

Given the finding that BN was associated with more severe general and ED-related symptoms than PD, the presence of OBEs (i.e., the qualitatively distinct symptom in BN compared to PD) could also be conceptualized as an indicator of severity. Therefore, the binge size criterion may be important to retain in diagnostic systems to distinguish among EDs, as it appears to yield clinically useful information regarding the severity of symptomatology. Furthermore, given that the frequency of purging was higher in BN than in PD in the present study, this suggests that the combination of OBEs and more frequent purging together may signify a more severe clinical presentation. It is also notable that in previous research, larger binge size was related to more frequent purging among individuals with BN and PD who experienced relatively higher frequencies of loss of control eating, while at lower frequencies of loss of control this relationship was not observed (Forney et al., 2016). This may seem somewhat inconsistent with the present finding that BN and PD groups did not differ in SBE frequencies, though loss of control in the previous study included both SBEs and OBEs. Thus, given that individuals with BN can experience both OBEs and SBEs, it is possible they experience relatively more frequent loss of control compared with PD, which appears to be associated with both more purging and larger binge episodes.

Limitations

The current study represents the most comprehensive meta-analysis of PD studies to date. However, although the meta-analytic approach was a particular strength of this investigation, the findings are not without limitations. There were limited data on moderators and several validators, particularly for important variables (e.g., mortality, medical morbidity) that could potentially distinguish PD from other EDs. There were not sufficient data to systematically assess the PD diagnostic criteria, which would be beneficial for future studies to explore in greater depth. There is a clear need for future research to be more explicit when defining PD, which may allow for subsequent evaluation of these criteria, particularly those proposed within the literature (e.g., see Keel & Striegel-Moore, 2009). It should also be noted that many of the analyses were conducted using a limited number of studies; thus, these interpretations should be made cautiously. In addition, the majority of studies included samples consisting of only Caucasian women, and therefore the present findings may not generalize to men or other ethnic groups. Although we compared PD with established *DSM-5* ED diagnoses, the majority of studies reviewed were based on *DSM-IV* diagnoses, which raises questions as to whether diagnostic groups were consistent across studies. Furthermore, we were not able to include newly introduced *DSM-5* diagnostic categories, such as Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder, other types of OSFED (e.g., atypical AN, BN with low frequency and/or duration), or UFED.

Conclusions and Future Directions

Despite the aforementioned limitations, the present meta-analysis revealed that the literature on PD continues to grow. The present findings support PD as a clinically significant ED characterized by substantial comorbidity and severity that is on par with some full-threshold ED diagnoses (i.e., AN and BED), but is less severe than BN in most domains. With respect to the predictive validity of PD as a diagnostic category, PD appears to be associated with a better prognosis compared with full-threshold EDs. Our findings also suggest that the frequency of SBEs could be investigated as a severity indicator across ED diagnoses, whereas purging frequency and the presence of OBEs warrant consideration as severity indicators within bulimic spectrum disorders, though further research is necessary to evaluate this conceptualization.

Notably, the differences observed between PD and other EDs in terms of severity and course of illness may have clinical utility in characterizing PD in relation to other ED diagnoses. However, given that the statistical approach of this meta-analysis precluded evaluation of categorical differences, it is yet unclear whether PD is a qualitatively distinct disorder from BN and other bulimic spectrum disorders such as AN-bp that are characterized by loss of control eating and purging behaviors, as both of these symptoms were observed in PD to varying degrees. As such, future taxometric and factor mixture analyses are needed to assess the categorical and dimensional nature of symptoms seen in PD and other EDs, particularly with respect to SBEs and purging behaviors. Doing so could inform revisions to future classification systems that account for both categorical and dimensional heterogeneity in EDs, as both of these domains are important to consider when characterizing diagnostic entities. Such classification approaches may provide clinicians with diagnostic conceptualizations that have greater clinical utility. Finally, the lack of data for many

validators examined here also demonstrated a clear need for continued investigation of constructs related to course, outcome, and etiology in PD.

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*Indicates studies included in meta-analyses.

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General Scientific Summary

This review compared Purging Disorder (PD), an eating disorder characterized by purging in the absence of objective binge eating episodes, to other established eating disorder diagnoses. Results showed that there appear to be differences between PD, Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, and Binge Eating Disorder regarding prognosis, and PD was less severe than Bulimia Nervosa on dimensional measures of general and eating disorder psychopathology. Taken together, thus far evidence suggests that while PD is a clinically significant disorder, it is yet unclear as to whether PD is categorically distinct eating disorder, and research is necessary to more fully address this question.

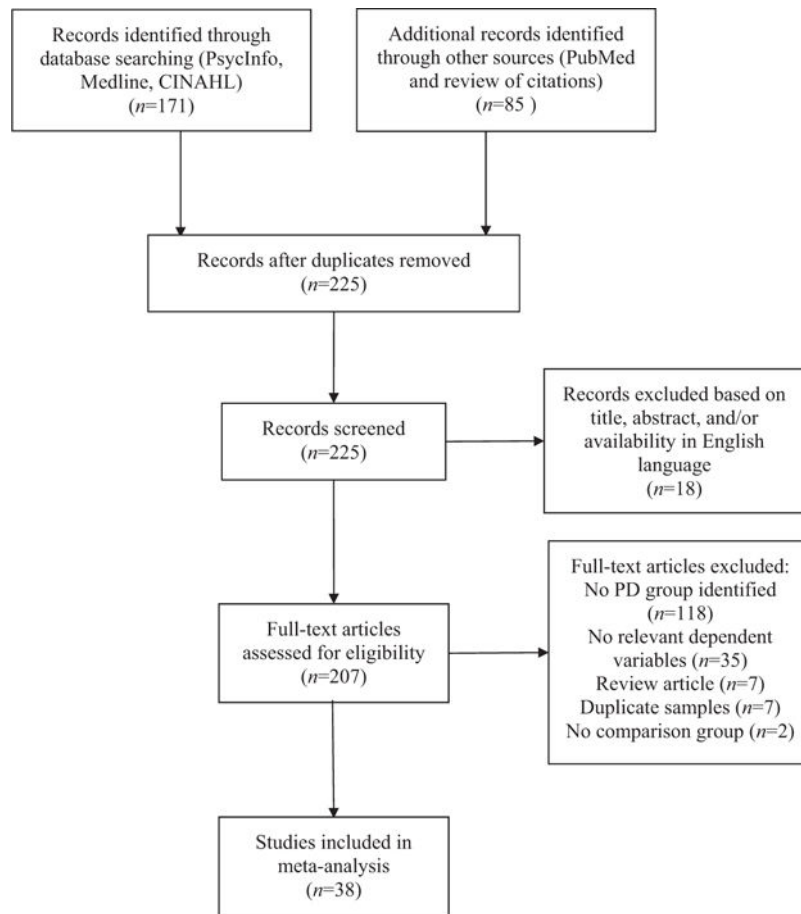


Figure 1.
PRISMA flow diagram of study selection.

Table 1

Summary of Comparisons, Dependent Variables, and Moderators Coded

Comparison groups	Dependent variables	Moderators	Moderator levels coded
Purging Disorder (PD) Bulimia Nervosa (BN) Anorexia Nervosa (AN) Binge Eating Disorder (BED) Non-eating disorder controls	Mortality (Standard or crude mortality rate) Medical morbidity (% with co-occurring medical diagnosis) Quality of life (dimensional measure) Functional impairment (dimensional measure) Suicidality (% with lifetime attempt or current ideation, or degree of ideation) Age of onset (years) Duration of illness (months) Natural course of illness (% remitted) Treatment outcome (% remitted) Treatment history (Number of episodes of care, duration of treatment) Depression (dimensional measure or % with mood disorder diagnosis) Anxiety (dimensional measure or % with anxiety disorder diagnosis) Substance use (dimensional measure or % with substance use disorder diagnosis) Impulsivity (dimensional measure or % with impulse control disorder diagnosis) Perfectionism (dimensional measure) Self-esteem (dimensional measure) Eating psychopathology (dimensional measure) Dietary restraint (dimensional measure) Body dissatisfaction (dimensional measure) Subjective binge frequency (weekly) Purging frequency (weekly)	Type of purging specified for PD diagnosis	Exclusively purging behavior (i.e., self-induced vomiting, laxatives, and/or diuretic abuse) was required for PD diagnosis Not exclusively purging behavior (i.e., non-purging compensatory behaviors such as exercise or fasting were included in PD diagnosis or was unspecified)
		Purging frequency criterion for PD diagnosis	At least once weekly At least twice weekly Not specified
		Inclusion of over-evaluation of shape and weight in PD diagnosis	Described Not described
		Inclusion of subjective binge episodes in PD diagnosis	Allowed Excluded Not specified
		Subtype of Anorexia Nervosa (AN)	Restricting subtype (AN-r) Binge-purge subtype (AN-bp) Mixed/Not specified
		Sample demographic	Non-treatment sample General psychiatric outpatient Specialized eating disorder treatment center Mixed Not specified
		Sample age group	Adolescent/child (age 18 and under) Adult (including college/university samples) Mixed ages Not specified
		Method of eating disorder diagnosis	Self-report Structured interview/clinician ratings

Table 2

Methods and Coded Moderators

Method of diagnosis	Sample demographic	Age group	Participant sex	N	Age		BMI		AN subtype	Type of purging behavior	Purging frequency criterion	Body image disturbance	SBEs included
					M	SD	M	SD					
Report	Non-treatment	Adolescent	Male and female	1,383	14.01	.19			n.s.	Purging	1×/wk	Described	n.s.
Report	Non-treatment	Adolescent	Male and female	1,383	14.01	.19			n.s.	Purging	1×/wk	Described	n.s.
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Adolescent	Male and female	56	16.55	1.36				Purging	1×/wk	Described	n.s.
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Adolescent	Female only	114						Not exclusive to purging	n.s.	Described	n.s.
Structured interview	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	60	21.12	5.15	21.82	2.20		Not exclusive to purging	2×/wk	Described	Allowed
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Adolescent	Male and female	281	16.00	2.00				Purging	2×/wk	n.s.	Allowed
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Adult	Female only	2,233	25.70	7.84			Both	Purging	n.s.	Described	Allowed
Structured interview	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	934			20.9	2.60	n.s.	Purging	2×/wk	Described	n.s.
Structured interview	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	294	18.87	2.58			n.s.	Purging	2×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
Report	Non-treatment	Adolescent	Male and female	3,043	14.19	1.61			n.s.	Purging	1×/wk	Described	n.s.

Method of diagnosis	Sample demographic	Age group	Participant sex	Age			BMI			PD diagnostic criteria			
				N	M	SD	M	SD	AN subtype	Type of purging behavior	Purging frequency criterion	Body image disturbance	SBEs included
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Mixed	Female only	73							n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Adolescent	Male and female	245	16.20	1.50			AN-bp	Purging	1×/wk	Described	Allowed
Report	Non-treatment	Adult	Male and female	2,491	20.00	1.70	22.07	2.90		Purging	1×/wk	Described	Excluded
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Mixed	Male and female	965	22.00	6.20			n.s.	Not exclusive to purging	n.s.	Described	n.s.
Structured interview	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	111	25.10	6.00	21.70	1.60		Purging	2×/wk	Described	Allowed
Structured interview	Non-treatment	Mixed	Female only	54						Purging	2×/wk.	Described	Allowed
Structured interview	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	119						Purging	2×/wk	Described	Allowed
Report	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	3,534	30.00	4.70			n.s.	Not exclusive to purging	1×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
Report	Specialized ED treatment	Adult	Male and female	1,484					AN-bp	Purging	1×/wk	Described	n.s.
Structured interview	Mixed	Adult	Female only	204	25.70	8.90				Not exclusive to purging	n.s.	n.s.	Allowed
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Adolescent	Male and female	158	27.10	8.80	23.20	4.40		Not exclusive to purging	1×/wk	n.s.	Allowed
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Mixed	Male and female	1,033					AN-bp	Purging	2×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
Report	General psychiatric	Adult	Female only	158	30.20	5.90			n.s.	Not exclusive to purging	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Mixed	Female only	1,029					n.s.	Not exclusive to purging	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.

Method of diagnosis	Sample demographic	Age group	Participant sex	Age			BMI			PD diagnostic criteria			
				N	M	SD	M	SD	AN subtype	Type of purging behavior	Purging frequency criterion	Body image disturbance	SBEs included
report	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	13,035					Both	Purging	1×/wk	Described	n.s.
report	Non-treatment	n.s.	Female only	234	34.10	10.20				Not exclusive to purging	1×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
report	Non-treatment	Adult	Male and female	371	33.20	12.10	28.82	8.97		Purging	1×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Mixed	Male and female	1,449	28.49	8.90			Both	Purging	1×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
report	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	94	19.77	4.22	23.70	4.98		Purging	1×/wk	Described	Allowed
structured interview	Non-treatment	Mixed	Male and female	145						Purging	2×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
structured interview	Non-treatment	Adolescent	Female only	496	13.00				n.s.	Purging	1×/wk	Described	n.s.
structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Mixed	Female only	605					n.s.	Purging	1×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Adult	Female only	1,831					Both	Purging	1×/wk	Described	n.s.
structured interview	Specialized ED treatment	Mixed	Male and female	267					AN-bp	Not exclusive to	2×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
structured interview	Non-treatment	Mixed	Female only	759	35.00	2.11				Purging	2×/wk	n.s.	Allowed

Method of diagnosis	Sample demographic	Age group	Participant sex	Age		BMI		AN subtype	Type of purging behavior	PD diagnostic criteria		
				N	M	SD	M			SD	Purging frequency criterion	Body image disturbance
Structured interview	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	1,002	34.97	2.11		Both	Purging	2×/wk	n.s.	Allowed
Report	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	1,876	29.90	4.60			Purging	1×/wk	n.s.	n.s.
Structured interview	Non-treatment	Adult	Female only	72					Purging	2×/wk	n.s.	n.s.

AN = Anorexia Nervosa; AN-r = AN restricting subtype; AN-bp = AN binge-purge subtype; Both = both AN-r and AN-bp subtypes included. n.s. = not significant; BMI = Body Mass Index; AN-r = AN restricting subtype; AN-bp = AN binge-purge subtype; Both = both AN-r and AN-bp subtypes included. n.s. = not significant; behavior was defined as self-induced vomiting, laxative, and/or diuretic use; non-purging behavior included other compensatory behaviors (i.e., exercise and fasting). Empty cells are specified by the study.

Table 3
 Summary of Overall Effect Sizes, Heterogeneity Statistics, and Fail-Safe N for Comparisons of PD With AN, BN, BED, and Control Groups

Comparison	Dependent variable	Studies				Heterogeneity				Fail-safe N	
		(n)	g	SE	p	Q	df	p	I ²		
PD vs. Control	Mortality	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Medical morbidity	1	.68	.46	.142	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Suicidality	6	1.94	.99	.050	433.59	5	<.001	98.85	583	—
	Quality of life	2	-.95	.01	<.001	111.58	1	<.001	99.10	—	—
	Functional impairment	1	.43	.25	.086	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Depression	7	1.13	.25	<.001	70.78	6	<.001	91.52	1,131	—
	Anxiety	8	1.42	.37	<.001	60.61	7	<.001	88.45	192	—
	Impulsivity	5	1.25	.12	<.001	12.04	4	<.017	66.78	102	—
	Substance use	5	.13	.01	<.001	44.22	4	<.001	90.95	195	—
	Body dissatisfaction	8	2.16	.46	<.001	136.69	7	<.001	94.88	623	—
	Dietary restraint	7	1.78	.44	<.001	130.32	6	<.001	95.40	439	—
	Eating psychopathology	10	1.71	.43	<.001	260.96	9	<.001	96.55	672	—
PD vs. AN	Mortality	1	.17	.22	.422	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Medical morbidity	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Suicidality	7	.10	.12	.415	24.34	6	<.001	75.35	—	—
	Quality of life	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Functional impairment	2	-.29	.07	<.001	.48	1	.488	<.001	*	—
	Depression	9	.20	.14	.162	58.39	8	<.001	86.30	—	—
	Anxiety	5	.10	.05	.054	2.00	4	.736	<.001	—	—
	Impulsivity	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Substance use	4	.23	.06	<.001	7.53	3	.057	60.18	5	—
	Age of onset (years)	6	.44	.15	.003	21.16	5	.001	76.37	43	—
	Duration of illness (months)	7	.10	.07	.177	13.07	6	.042	54.08	—	—
	Natural course (% remitted)	2	.10	.32	.759	1.07	1	.301	6.69	—	—
	Treatment outcome (% remitted)	4	.27	.05	<.001	3.58	3	.311	16.18	18	—
	Treatment history	4	-.30	.08	<.001	10.89	3	.012	72.45	23	—

Comparison	Dependent variable	Studies (n)	g	SE	p	Q	df	Heterogeneity		Fail-safe N
								I ²	p	
	SBE frequency	3	-.17	.06	.004	5.67	2	.059	64.74	*
	Purging frequency	4	.48	.06	<.001	11.32	3	.010	73.49	59
	Self-esteem	3	.58	.12	<.001	62.59	2	<.001	96.80	*
	Perfectionism	3	-.08	.08	.346	2.75	2	.253	27.34	—
	Eating psychopathology	9	-.16	.27	.552	252.59	8	<.001	96.83	—
	Body dissatisfaction	8	.14	.20	.494	121.75	7	<.001	94.25	—
	Restraint	5	.14	.06	.017	16.43	4	.002	75.65	4
PD vs. BN	Mortality	1	.86	.26	.001	—	—	—	—	*
	Medical morbidity	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Suicidality	9	-.57	.34	.093	113.77	8	<.001	92.97	—
	Quality of life	1	-2.97	.34	<.001	—	—	—	—	—
	Functional impairment	2	-.22	.08	.005	.00	1	.983	<.001	*
	Depression	20	-.22	.11	.042	130.51	19	<.001	85.44	50
	Anxiety	13	-.24	.14	.087	77.91	12	<.001	84.60	—
	Impulsivity	6	-.51	.20	.013	16.36	5	.006	69.43	25
	Substance use	10	-.06	.06	.339	7.77	9	.558	.00	—
	Age of onset (years)	9	.26	.11	.012	21.53	8	.006	62.84	25
	Duration of illness (months)	15	-.12	.07	.103	32.55	14	.003	56.99	—
	Natural course (% remitted)	6	.54	.14	<.001	5.04	5	.412	.70	10
	Treatment outcome (% remitted)	5	-.06	.06	.335	10.36	4	.035	61.40	—
	Treatment history	6	-.33	.18	.069	10.98	5	.05	54.44	—
	SBE frequency	10	-.27	.15	.073	45.35	9	<.001	80.15	—
	Purging frequency	12	-.25	.08	.003	21.62	11	.027	49.12	44
	Self-esteem	8	.45	.21	.036	68.70	7	<.001	89.81	42
	Perfectionism	8	-.42	.21	.044	80.86	7	<.001	91.34	33
	Eating psychopathology	25	-.94	.21	<.001	763.92	24	<.001	96.86	3,585
	Body dissatisfaction	21	-.33	.07	<.001	67.86	20	<.001	70.53	266
	Restraint	16	-.15	.09	.115	45.98	15	<.001	67.38	—

Comparison	Dependent variable	Studies (n)	g	SE	p	Heterogeneity				Fail-safe N
						Q	df	p	I ²	
PD vs. BED	Mortality	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Medical morbidity	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Suicidality	5	.16	.09	.085	3.69	4	.449	<.001	—
	Quality of life	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Functional impairment	2	-.19	.11	.081	1.37	1	.241	27.23	—
	Depression	7	.02	.19	.920	24.26	6	<.001	75.27	—
	Anxiety	6	.10	.17	.550	9.87	5	.079	49.35	—
	Impulsivity	1	.28	.46	.536	—	—	—	—	—
	Substance use	4	.03	.14	.827	11.33	3	.010	73.52	—
	Age of onset (years)	3	.05	.12	.666	.97	2	.615	.00	—
	Duration of illness (months)	6	-.45	.15	.002	8.72	5	.121	42.68	23
	Natural course (% remitted)	5	.40	.13	.002	7.65	4	.105	47.73	11
	Treatment outcome (% remitted)	2	.26	.13	.051	.95	1	.330	<.001	—
	Treatment history	2	-.40	.33	.222	.86	1	.353	<.001	—
	SBE frequency	3	-.18	.10	.062	.02	2	.988	<.001	—
	Purging frequency	2	.89	.11	<.001	6.93	1	.008	85.57	—
	Self-esteem	1	.45	.22	.040	—	—	—	—	*
	Perfectionism	3	.10	.17	.546	2.18	2	.336	8.40	—
	Eating psychopathology	9	-.28	.22	.218	58.87	8	<.001	86.41	—
	Body dissatisfaction	7	-.16	.12	.174	10.62	6	.101	43.50	—
	Restraint	5	.65	.09	<.001	54.41	4	<.001	92.65	—

Note. PD = Purging Disorder; AN = Anorexia Nervosa; BN = Bulimia Nervosa; BED = Binge Eating Disorder. Positive g values indicate higher means in the PD group. The fail-safe N was calculated for statistically significant effect sizes ($p < .05$).

* Indicates the fail-safe N was not possible to be calculated if fewer than 3 studies were included in the comparison, or if fixed effects model was used with a limited number of studies.

Table 4

Summary Statistics for Moderation Analyses

Comparison groups	Dependent variable	Moderator	<i>Q</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>	Moderator levels	Number of studies	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
PD/AN	Eating psychopathology	Inclusion of SBEs in PD diagnosis	4.42	1	.036	Allowed	4	.32	.18	.084
						Not specified	5	-.39	.42	.352
	Body dissatisfaction	Inclusion of SBEs in PD diagnosis	4.17	1	.041	Allowed	4	.48	.14	<.001
						Not specified	4	-.21	.31	.489

Note. PD = Purging Disorder; AN = Anorexia Nervosa; BN = Bulimia Nervosa; BED = Binge Eating Disorder; SBE = Subjective binge episode. No studies were available at the “Excluded” level of the moderator.

Table 5

Summary of Individual Effect Sizes

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Allen, Byrne, Oddy, and Crosby (2013a)		PD vs. BED	Depression	Beck Depression Inventory for Youth	-.07	.35	.836
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	Global index of eating disorder symptoms (derived from EDE-Q)	.38	.35	.278
		PD vs. BN	Depression	Beck Depression Inventory for Youth	.08	.32	.789
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	Global index of eating disorder symptoms (derived from EDE-Q)	-.48	.32	.135
		PD vs. Control	Depression	Beck Depression Inventory for Youth	1.03	.23	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	Global index of eating disorder symptoms (derived from EDE-Q)	2.90	.25	<.001
Allen, Byrne, Oddy, and Crosby (2013b)	n.s.	PD vs. AN	Depression	Beck Depression Inventory for Youth	.18	.71	.797
	n.s.	PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	Global index of eating disorder symptoms (derived from EDE-Q)	.26	.71	.714
Allen, Byrne, Oddy, and Crosby (2013b)		PD vs. BED	Natural course	% remitted	.00	.33	.989
		PD vs. BN	Natural course	% remitted	.20	.33	.549
		PD vs. BN	Anxiety	Anxiety disorder	.14	.34	.686
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	-.69	.28	.015
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	-.94	.29	.001
		PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI	-.21	.28	.439
		PD vs. BN	Depression	Depression diagnosis	-.14	.30	.651
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months	-.10	.28	.710
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	-1.26	.30	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Purging frequency	Purging frequency	-.29	.28	.290
Binford and Le Grange (2005)		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint	.16	.28	.566
		PD vs. BN	SBE frequency	SBE frequency	.02	.28	.937
		PD vs. BN	Self-esteem	RSE	-.56	.28	.044
		PD vs. BN	Substance use	Substance use disorder	-.03	.31	.924
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	-.06	.21	.768
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	-.14	.21	.516
		PD vs. BN	Depression	Depression diagnosis	.37	.25	.135
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months	.01	.21	.974
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concerns	-.26	.21	.214
		PD vs. BN	Purging frequency	Purging frequency	-.24	.21	.265
Darcy et al. (2015)		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	-.14	.21	.516
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	-.14	.21	.516
		PD vs. BN	Depression	Depression diagnosis	.37	.25	.135
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months	.01	.21	.974
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concerns	-.26	.21	.214
		PD vs. BN	Purging frequency	Purging frequency	-.24	.21	.265
		PD vs. BN	Substance use	Substance use disorder	-.03	.31	.924
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	-.06	.21	.768
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	-.14	.21	.516
		PD vs. BN	Depression	Depression diagnosis	.37	.25	.135

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Davis, Holland, and Keel (2014)		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint	.00	.21	1.000
		PD vs. BN	SBE frequency		.36	.21	.086
		PD vs. BN	Age of onset	(unpublished data)	-.09	.31	.780
		PD vs. BN	Anxiety	STAI-trait	-.51	.32	.108
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ	-.96	.33	.003
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months (unpublished data)	-.05	.31	.876
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EAT	-.96	.33	.003
		PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	.03	.31	.922
		PD vs. Control	Anxiety	STAI-trait	1.67	.36	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ	2.23	.40	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EAT	1.55	.36	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	.76	.32	.018
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	-.50	.20	.012
	Eddy, Doyle, Hoste, Herzog, and Le Grange (2008) ^d		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	-.50	.20
		PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI	-.08	.20	.681
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	-1.04	.21	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-global	-.61	.20	.002
		PD vs. BN	Purging frequency		-.55	.20	.006
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint	-.13	.20	.498
		PD vs. BN	SBE frequency		-.12	.20	.530
		PD vs. BN	Self-esteem	RSE	.33	.20	.091
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	.95	.21	<.001
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	.92	.21	<.001
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Depression	BDI	.61	.20	.003
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	.69	.20	.001
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-global	.94	.21	<.001
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Purging frequency		1.14	.21	<.001
n.s.	PD vs. AN	Restraint	EDE-restraint	.65	.20	.001	
n.s.	PD vs. AN	SBE frequency		.26	.20	.182	
n.s.	PD vs. AN	Self-esteem	RSE	-.54	.20	.007	

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Ekeröth, Clinton, Norring, and Birgegard (2013)	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Age of onset	(unpublished data)	.15	.15	.330
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Anxiety	Anxiety disorder	.04	.13	.783
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern (unpublished data)	.23	.11	.029
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Depression	Mood disorder	-.25	.11	.018
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months (unpublished data)	.21	.15	.156
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q global	-.08	.09	.386
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Impairment	CIA	-.53	.10	<.001
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Purging frequency		-.46	.09	<.001
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (unpublished data)	-.27	.11	.012
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	SBE frequency		-.28	.09	.003
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Substance use	Substance use disorder	.00	.17	1.000
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Suicidality	% classified as "high risk" (unpublished data)	.13	.29	.644
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Suicidality	CPRS-S-A item 19 (unpublished data)	-.27	.11	.011
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Treatment outcome	% with no diagnosis	.39	.11	<.001
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Age of onset	(unpublished data)	-.04	.14	.794
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Anxiety	Anxiety disorder	.25	.13	.065
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern (unpublished data)	.69	.09	.000
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Depression	Mood disorder	.18	.11	.096
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months (unpublished data)	.30	.14	.031
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q global	.57	.09	.000
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Impairment	CIA	-.06	.09	.499
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Purging frequency		1.37	.10	<.001
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (unpublished data)	.38	.09	<.001
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	SBE frequency		-.18	.09	.048
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Substance use	Substance use disorder	.60	.20	.002
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Suicidality	% classified as "high risk" (unpublished data)	1.08	.44	.014
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Suicidality	CPRS-S-A item 19 (unpublished data)	.15	.09	.114
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Treatment outcome	% with no diagnosis	.26	.10	.012
	PD vs. BED		Age of onset	(unpublished data)	.02	.15	.918
	PD vs. BED		Anxiety	Anxiety disorder	.07	.17	.656
	PD vs. BED		Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern (unpublished data)	.07	.11	.522

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
		PD vs. BED	Depression	Mood disorder	-.47	.13	<.001
		PD vs. BED	Duration of illness	Months (unpublished data)	-.50	.15	.001
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q global	.41	.12	<.001
		PD vs. BED	Impairment	CIA	-.15	.12	.196
		PD vs. BED	Purging frequency	EDE-restraint (unpublished data)	1.03	.12	<.001
		PD vs. BED	Restraint	EDE-restraint (unpublished data)	1.24	.12	<.001
		PD vs. BED	SBE frequency	SBE frequency	-.19	.12	.107
		PD vs. BED	Substance use	Substance use disorder	-.20	.19	.301
		PD vs. BED	Suicidality	% classified as "high risk" (unpublished data)	.39	.37	.285
		PD vs. BED	Suicidality	CPRS-S-A item 19 (unpublished data)	.15	.11	.190
		PD vs. BED	Treatment outcome	% with no diagnosis	.28	.13	.035
		PD vs. BN	Age of onset	(unpublished data)	.12	.10	.234
		PD vs. BN	Anxiety	Anxiety disorder	.11	.12	.320
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern (unpublished data)	-.08	.08	.327
		PD vs. BN	Depression	Mood disorder	-.27	.09	.003
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months (unpublished data)	-.13	.10	.200
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q global	-.12	.08	.155
		PD vs. BN	Impairment	CIA	-.22	.08	.006
		PD vs. BN	Purging frequency	EDE-restraint (unpublished data)	-.30	.08	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (unpublished data)	.20	.08	.009
		PD vs. BN	SBE frequency	SBE frequency	-.14	.08	.082
		PD vs. BN	Substance use	Substance use disorder	-.15	.14	.280
		PD vs. BN	Suicidality	% classified as "high risk" (unpublished data)	.09	.20	.651
		PD vs. BN	Suicidality	CPRS-S-A item 19 (unpublished data)	.03	.08	.662
		PD vs. BN	Treatment outcome	% with no diagnosis	.04	.09	.618
Favaro, Ferrara, and Santonastaso (2003)		PD vs. BED	Age of onset	% with no diagnosis	.53	.50	.291
		PD vs. BED	Duration of illness	Months	-.71	.50	.161
		PD vs. BED	Treatment history	% with any type of treatment	.38	.90	.674
		PD vs. BED	Treatment outcome	% remitted	-.38	.67	.566
		PD vs. BN	Age of onset	% remitted	.96	.36	.007
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months	-.80	.35	.024

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Fink et al. (2009) ^b		PD vs. BN	Treatment history	% with any type of treatment	-.81	.60	.177
		PD vs. BN	Treatment outcome	% remitted	.59	.41	.150
	n.s.	PD vs. AN	Age of onset		.69	.39	.075
	n.s.	PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months	-.41	.38	.282
	n.s.	PD vs. AN	Treatment history	% with any type of treatment	-1.24	.62	.044
	n.s.	PD vs. AN	Treatment outcome	% remitted	.39	.44	.380
		PD vs. Control	Anxiety	BAI	.09	.41	.833
		PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction	1.61	.42	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness	1.57	.42	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Depression	BDI	.40	.01	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	-.09	.41	.826
		PD vs. Control	Impulsivity	IBS	1.02	.41	.014
		PD vs. Control	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	1.65	.42	<.001
	Flament et al. (2015)		PD vs. Control	Self-esteem	RSE	.34	.41
		PD vs. BED	Anxiety	MASC-10	-.33	.28	.233
		PD vs. BED	Depression	CDI	.12	.27	.669
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	DEBQ emotional eating	-1.52	.31	<.001
		PD vs. BED	Restraint	DEBQ restrained eating	.26	.27	.346
		PD vs. BED	Substance use	Substance use	.70	.32	.027
		PD vs. BED	Suicidality	Suicidality	.27	.33	.407
		PD vs. BN	Anxiety	MASC-10	-.38	.20	.060
		PD vs. BN	Depression	CDI	-.48	.20	.019
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	DEBQ emotional eating	-1.22	.22	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	DEBQ restrained eating	-.29	.20	.152
		PD vs. BN	Substance use	Substance use	.10	.23	.677
		PD vs. BN	Suicidality	Suicidality	-.25	.23	.274
		PD vs. Control	Anxiety	MASC-10	.66	.16	<.001
	PD vs. Control	Depression	CDI	.87	.16	<.001	
	PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	DEBQ emotional eating	.14	.16	.364	
	PD vs. Control	Restraint	DEBQ restrained eating	1.41	.16	<.001	
	PD vs. Control	Substance use	Substance use	.86	.19	<.001	

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
García, Planell, Estragués, i Escursell, and Carracedo (2010)		PD vs. Control	Suicidality	Suicidality	.88	.18	<.001
		PD vs. BED	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ	.54	.46	.241
		PD vs. BED	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction	-.55	.46	.235
		PD vs. BED	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness	.04	.46	.922
		PD vs. BED	Duration of illness	Months	-.74	.47	.114
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	BITE Severity Scale	.04	.46	.938
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	BITE Symptoms Scale	-.63	.47	.177
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	-.25	.46	.582
		PD vs. BED	Impulsivity	EDI-impulsiveness	.28	.46	.536
		PD vs. BED	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	.23	.46	.613
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ	-.50	.30	.099
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction	-.66	.31	.031
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness	1.02	.32	.001
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months	-.27	.30	.363
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	BITE Severity Scale	-1.21	.33	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	BITE Symptoms Scale	-1.57	.34	<.001
	Goldschmidt et al. (2016) ^c		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	-2.86	.42
		PD vs. BN	Impulsivity	EDI-impulsiveness	-.71	.31	.022
		PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	-.28	.30	.358
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern PD LOC	.26	.26	.313
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern PD NO LOC	.28	.21	.185
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern PD LOC	.35	.26	.188
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern PD NO LOC	.36	.21	.088
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Depression	BDI (PD LOC)	.04	.26	.869
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Depression	BDI (PD NO LOC)	.04	.21	.835
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern (PD LOC)	.15	.26	.567
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern (PD NO LOC)	.14	.21	.493
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (PD LOC)	-.50	.26	.059
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (PD NO LOC)	-.49	.21	.021
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Self-esteem	RSE (PD LOC)	1.64	.30	<.001
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Self-esteem	RSE (PD NO LOC)	1.61	.24	<.001

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Haedt and Keel (2010)	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern PD LOC	-.41	.23	.073
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern PD NO LOC	-.27	.16	.091
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern PD LOC	-.32	.23	.158
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern PD NO LOC	-.13	.16	.419
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI (PD LOC)	-.25	.23	.275
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI (PD NO LOC)	-.24	.16	.132
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern (PD LOC)	-.63	.23	.006
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern (PD NO LOC)	-.68	.16	<.001
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (PD LOC)	-.43	.23	.057
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (PD NO LOC)	.06	.16	.686
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Self-esteem	RSE (PD LOC)	1.13	.23	<.001
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Self-esteem	RSE (PD NO LOC)	-.27	.16	.094
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Anxiety	Checklist (unpublished data)	1.83	.49	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness (unpublished data)	1.45	.24	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Depression	Checklist (unpublished data)	.43	.46	.349
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia (unpublished data)	.94	.24	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Medical morbidity	History of cancer, high blood pressure, diabetes, or migraines (unpublished data)	.68	.46	.142
Helverskov et al. (2011)	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	.98	.01	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Purging frequency	(unpublished data)	6.12	.39	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Quality of life/psychosocial functioning	Satisfaction with relationships	-1.40	.01	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Quality of life/psychosocial functioning	Satisfaction with school	-.50	.01	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Restraint	Restraint Scale items (unpublished data)	1.58	.38	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Substance use	Frequency of alcohol use	.04	.01	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Substance use	Frequency of cigarette use	.22	.01	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Treatment history	Lifetime eating disorder treatment (unpublished data)	.92	.64	.154
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-global	-.40	.14	.006
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-total	-.19	.14	.184
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Purging frequency		.01	.14	.957

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Keel, Haedt, and Edler (2005)	n.s.	PD vs. AN	Purging frequency	(unpublished data)	.50	.15	.001
		PD vs. BN	Age of onset		.25	.25	.317
		PD vs. BN	Anxiety	Lifetime anxiety disorder	.34	.26	.189
		PD vs. BN	Anxiety	STAI-trait	-.62	.23	.007
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ	-.37	.23	.104
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	-.36	.23	.116
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	.08	.23	.734
		PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI	-.59	.23	.011
		PD vs. BN	Depression	Lifetime mood disorder	-.20	.31	.522
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	(unpublished data)	-.47	.25	.061
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	-.69	.23	.003
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-global	-.22	.23	.334
		PD vs. BN	Impulsivity	BIS-11	-.01	.23	.972
		PD vs. BN	Impulsivity	Lifetime impulse control disorder	-.22	.27	.411
		PD vs. BN	Natural course (%remitted)	% remitted at follow-up; i.e., no symptoms within last 12 weeks	.42	.68	.533
		PD vs. BN	Purging frequency		-.53	.23	.022
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint	.00	.23	1.000
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ	-1.05	.24	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Substance use	Lifetime substance use disorder	.35	.25	.165
		PD vs. BN	Suicidality	Current suicidal ideation (unpublished data)	-.53	.86	.534
		PD vs. BN	Treatment history	Current treatment(unpublished data)	-.25	.26	.328
		PD vs. BN	Treatment history	Lifetime treatment(unpublished data)	-.27	.51	.603
		PD vs. Control	Anxiety	Lifetime anxiety disorder	1.63	.46	<.001
	PD vs. Control	Anxiety	STAI-trait	1.25	.26	<.001	
	PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ	3.68	.39	<.001	
	PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	4.01	.41	<.001	
	PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	4.71	.46	<.001	
	PD vs. Control	Depression	BDI	1.44	.26	<.001	
	PD vs. Control	Depression	Lifetime mood disorder	1.96	.40	<.001	
	PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	2.84	.33	<.001	
	PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EDE-global	5.10	.49	<.001	

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Keel, Mayer, and Harnden-Fischer (2001) ^d	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Impulsivity	BIS-11	.82	.24	.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Impulsivity	Lifetime impulse control disorder	1.88	.80	.019
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Restraint	EDE-restraint	3.98	.41	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Restraint	TFEQ	3.37	.37	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Substance use	Lifetime substance use disorder	1.65	.43	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Treatment history	Current treatment (unpublished data)	1.61	.58	.006
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Treatment history	Lifetime treatment (unpublished data)	1.99	.40	<.001
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Anxiety	STAI-state	.18	.27	.500
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Anxiety	STAI-trait	.14	.27	.595
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI	-.02	.27	.938
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	Bulimia Test-Revised	-.89	.28	.002
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Impulsivity	BIS-11	-.78	.28	.005
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Purging frequency		-.79	.28	.005
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	Revised Restraint Scale	-.43	.27	.119
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-cognitive	.36	.27	.187
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-disinhibition	-.51	.27	.064
	Keel, Wolfe, Gravener, and Jimerson (2008)	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-hunger	-.28	.27
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	SBE frequency	Loss of control frequency	-.82	.28	.004
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Substance abuse	DAST	-.40	.27	.143
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Substance abuse	MAST	-.47	.27	.085
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Treatment history	% with lifetime history of treatment	-.92	.33	.005
PD vs. BN		Anxiety	Lifetime anxiety disorder	.13	.27	.622	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Anxiety	STAI-trait	-.735	.63	<.001
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ (unpublished data)	-.51	.22	.023
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE weight and shape concerns (unpublished data)	-.35	.22	.113
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI	-5.43	.49	.000
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Depression	Lifetime mood disorder	-.74	.29	.011
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-global (unpublished data)	-.41	.22	.064
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (unpublished data)	-.14	.22	.512
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-CR (unpublished data)	.20	.22	.362
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Impulsivity	BIS-11	-2.13	.29	<.001

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
		PD vs. BN	Impulsivity	Lifetime impulse control disorder	-.38	.30	.202
		PD vs. BN	Purging frequency		-.30	.24	.220
		PD vs. BN	Quality of life/ psychosocial functioning	SAS-SR	-2.97	.34	<.001
		PD vs. BN	SBE frequency	(unpublished data)	.49	.22	.028
		PD vs. BN	Substance use	Lifetime substance use disorder	-.15	.27	.564
		PD vs. BN	Age of onset	(unpublished data)	.14	.24	.538
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months (unpublished data)	-.23	.24	.333
		PD vs. BN	Suicidality	Current suicidal ideation (unpublished data)	-.06	.91	.949
		PD vs. BN	Suicidality	Lifetime attempt (unpublished data)	.44	.47	.351
		PD vs. BN	Treatment history	Current treatment (unpublished data)	.02	.35	.958
		PD vs. BN	Treatment history	Lifetime treatment (unpublished data)	-.11	.27	.677
		PD vs. Control	Suicidality	Lifetime attempt (unpublished data)	.69	.65	.291
		PD vs. Control	Treatment history	Current treatment (unpublished data)	.75	.49	.128
		PD vs. Control	Treatment history	Lifetime treatment (unpublished data)	.86	.27	.002
		PD vs. Control	Anxiety	Lifetime anxiety disorder	.91	.32	.004
		PD vs. Control	Anxiety	STAI-trait	6.52	.64	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ (unpublished data)	4.73	.44	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDE weight and shape concerns (unpublished data)	5.20	.47	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Depression	BDI	5.30	.54	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Depression	Lifetime mood disorder	.91	.32	.004
		PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EDE-global (unpublished data)	5.46	.49	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Restraint	EDE-restraint (unpublished data)	3.95	.39	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Restraint	TFEQ-CR (unpublished data)	4.55	.43	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Impulsivity	BIS-11	3.16	.38	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Impulsivity	Lifetime impulse control disorder	.54	.38	.157
		PD vs. Control	Quality of life/ psychosocial functioning	SAS-SR	2.96	.37	<.001
		PD vs. Control	SBE frequency	(unpublished data)	1.61	.26	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Substance use	Lifetime substance use disorder	.83	.32	.010
		PD vs. BED	Natural course (%remitted)	% with no ED diagnosis at follow-up	.33	.24	.157

Knoph et al. (2013)

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>	
Koch, Quadflieg, and Fichter (2013)	n.s.	PD vs. BN	Natural course (% remitted)	% with no ED diagnosis at follow-up	.62	.25	.013	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Natural course (% remitted)	% with no ED diagnosis at follow-up	-.04	.35	.899	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Age of onset	Age of onset	.29	.08	<.001	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Anxiety	Anxiety disorder	.18	.11	.104	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	SIAB-S body image	-.49	.08	<.001	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Depression	BDI	-.33	.08	<.001	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Depression	Mood disorder	.00	.10	.980	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months	.20	.08	.013	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	-.91	.08	<.001	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	SIAB-S bulimic symptoms	-1.46	.09	<.001	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Mortality	Crude mortality rate	.17	.22	.422	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Substance use	Substance-related disorder	-.17	.19	.356	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Treatment history	Total length of treatment in years	-.21	.08	.010	
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Treatment outcome	% with no diagnosis	.08	.11	.469	
	Le Grange et al. (2006)	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Age of onset	Age of onset	-.02	.08	.839
		PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Anxiety	Anxiety disorder	.16	.10	.095
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	SIAB-S body image	.08	.08	.293	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI	-.04	.08	.613	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Depression	Mood disorder	.04	.09	.692	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months	.16	.08	.030	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDI bulimia	-2.10	.09	<.001	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	SIAB-S bulimic symptoms	-5.22	.14	<.001	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Mortality	Crude mortality rate	.86	.26	.001	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Substance use	Substance-related disorder	-.06	.17	.713	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Treatment history	Total length of treatment in years	.00	.08	.975	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Treatment outcome	% with no diagnosis	-.22	.10	.034	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	.20	.22	.375	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	.11	.22	.626	
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	-.21	.22	.341	
MacDonald, Trottier, McFarlane, and Olmsted (2015)		PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint	.26	.22	.254
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Age of onset	(unpublished data)	.45	.24	.064	

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>	
Marino (2011)		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern (unpublished data)	-.09	.26	.728	
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern (unpublished data)	.14	.25	.583	
		PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI-II (unpublished data)	-.28	.25	.258	
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months (unpublished data)	-.25	.24	.313	
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern (unpublished data)	-.64	.25	.012	
		PD vs. BN	Purging frequency	(unpublished data)	-.30	.24	.215	
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (unpublished data)	.16	.25	.528	
		PD vs. BN	SBE frequency	(unpublished data)	-.16	.24	.524	
		PD vs. BN	Self-esteem	RSE (unpublished data)	.42	.25	.084	
		PD vs. BN	Treatment outcome	% remitted (defined as 1 binge eating and/or vomiting episode in the last two weeks of treatment and 1 episode in the first month after treatment ended)	.47	.30	.119	
		AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	-.54	.28	.059
		AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	-.54	.28	.059
		AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Depression	IDS-SR	-.62	.30	.039
		AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	-1.37	.31	<.001
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Restraint	EDE-restraint	.54	.28	.059	
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	-.45	.24	.060	
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	-.45	.24	.060	
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Depression	IDS-SR	-.44	.23	.060	
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	-1.08	.24	<.001	
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint	.45	.24	.060	
	PD vs. BED	PD vs. BED	Anxiety	STAI-trait	-.06	.38	.870	
	PD vs. BED	PD vs. BED	Depression	Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale	.42	.38	.270	
	PD vs. BED	PD vs. BED	Depression	PHQ severity	.71	.39	.069	
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Anxiety	STAI-trait	-.46	.35	.184	
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Depression	Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale	-.26	.35	.453	
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Depression	PHQ severity	.15	.35	.656	
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Anxiety	STAI-trait	.13	.27	.636	
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Depression	Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale	.69	.27	.011	
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Depression	PHQ severity	1.05	.28	.000	
	PD vs. AN	PD vs. AN	Anxiety	STAI-trait	-.08	.34	.811	
	n.s.							
Metzler-Brody et al. (2011)								

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Nakai, Fukushima, Taniguchi, Nin, and Teramukai (2013) ^e	n.s.	PD vs. AN	Depression	Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale	.75	.36	.037
	n.s.	PD vs. AN	Depression	PHQ severity	.97	.37	.008
		PD vs. BED	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction	-1.08	.28	<.001
		PD vs. BED	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness	-.50	.27	.066
		PD vs. BED	Duration of illness	Months	-.48	.27	.075
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	EAT	.14	.27	.614
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	-1.13	.28	<.001
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	EDI-total	-.73	.27	.008
		PD vs. BED	Perfectionism	EDE-perfectionism	-.20	.27	.454
		PD vs. BN	Age of onset	Age of onset	.94	.26	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction	-1.00	.26	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness	-1.00	.26	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months	-.43	.25	.090
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EAT	-.66	.26	.010
	Pisetsky, Thornton, Lichtenstein, Pedersen, and Bulik (2013)		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	-1.90	.26
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-total	-1.16	.26	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	EDE-perfectionism	-.30	.25	.240
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Age of onset	Age of onset	.99	.26	<.001
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction	-.12	.26	.634
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness	-.54	.26	.036
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months	-.32	.26	.209
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EAT	-.86	.26	.001
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	-.68	.26	.009
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-total	-.59	.26	.022
n.s.		PD vs. AN	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	-.07	.26	.798
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Anxiety	Lifetime anxiety disorder	-.16	.18	.374
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Depression	Lifetime depression	.81	.24	.001
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Substance use	Lifetime alcohol abuse/dependence	-.17	.24	.477
AN-bp		PD vs. AN	Substance use	Lifetime substance use (other than alcohol)	.20	.24	.416
AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Suicidality	% with lifetime attempt	-.13	.27	.631	

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Anxiety	Lifetime anxiety disorder	.13	.19	.489
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Depression	Lifetime depression	1.24	.24	<.001
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Substance use	Lifetime alcohol abuse/dependence	.03	.26	.916
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Substance use	Lifetime substance use (other than alcohol)	.25	.26	.340
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Suicidality	% with lifetime attempt	.21	.32	.518
	PD vs. BED		Anxiety	Lifetime anxiety disorder	-.10	.26	.705
	PD vs. BED		Depression	Lifetime depression	.74	.32	.020
	PD vs. BED		Substance use	Lifetime alcohol abuse/dependence	-.30	.33	.354
	PD vs. BED		Substance use	Lifetime substance use (other than alcohol)	-.16	.32	.621
	PD vs. BED		Suicidality	% with lifetime attempt	-.14	.39	.714
	PD vs. BN		Anxiety	Lifetime anxiety disorder	-.34	.16	.030
	PD vs. BN		Depression	Lifetime depression	.83	.22	<.001
	PD vs. BN		Substance use	Lifetime alcohol abuse/dependence	-.44	.20	.030
	PD vs. BN		Substance use	Lifetime substance use (other than alcohol)	.08	.21	.715
	PD vs. BN		Suicidality	% with lifetime attempt	-.11	.24	.656
	PD vs. Control		Suicidality	% with lifetime attempt	1.06	.20	<.001
Roberto, Grilo, Masheb, and White (2010)	PD vs. BED		Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q shape concern	-.28	.22	.198
	PD vs. BED		Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q weight concern	-.34	.22	.126
	PD vs. BED		Depression	BDI	-.59	.22	.007
	PD vs. BED		Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q eating concern	-.38	.22	.084
	PD vs. BED		Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q global	-.05	.22	.809
	PD vs. BED		Restraint	EDE-Q restraint	.70	.22	.002
	PD vs. BED		Restraint	TFEQ-disinhibition	-1.10	.23	<.001
	PD vs. BED		Restraint	TFEQ-hunger	-.41	.22	.063
	PD vs. BED		Restraint	TFEQ-restraint	1.19	.23	.000
	PD vs. BED		SBE frequency		-.17	.22	.438
	PD vs. BED		Self-esteem	RSE	.45	.22	.040
	PD vs. BN		Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q shape concern	-1.06	.25	<.001
	PD vs. BN		Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q weight concern	-1.00	.25	<.001
	PD vs. BN		Depression	BDI	-1.21	.26	<.001
	PD vs. BN		Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q eating concern	-1.18	.26	<.001

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Roberto, Haynos, Schwartz, Brownell, and White (2013)		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q global	-.99	.25	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-Q restraint	-.20	.24	.414
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-disinhibition	-1.50	.27	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-hunger	-.65	.25	.009
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-restraint	.48	.24	.047
		PD vs. BN	SBE frequency		-.46	.24	.058
		PD vs. BN	Self-esteem	RSE	.87	.25	.001
		PD vs. BED	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q shape concern	-.03	.28	.911
		PD vs. BED	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q weight concern	.07	.28	.810
		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q eating concern	.48	.28	.083
		PD vs. BED	Restraint	EDE-Q restraint	.46	.28	.099
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q shape concern	-.65	.32	.039
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q weight concern	-.78	.32	.015
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q eating concern	-.88	.32	.006
	Rockert, Kaplan, and Olmsted (2007)		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-Q restraint	-.76	.32
		PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q shape concern	.57	.25	.022
		PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q weight concern	.84	.25	.001
		PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q eating concern	1.09	.25	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Restraint	EDE-Q restraint	.71	.25	.005
		PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months	.06	.11	.600
		PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months	.00	.12	.971
		PD vs. BED	Duration of illness	Months	-.67	.18	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction (BN-p)	-.18	.10	.060
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness (BN-p)	-.18	.10	.060
		PD vs. BN	Depression	BDI (BN-p)	.26	.10	.008
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months (BN-p)	-.24	.10	.013
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia (BN-p)	-.38	.10	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism (BN-p)	-.18	.10	.060
Smith and Crowther (2013)			PD vs. BN	Self-esteem	RSE (BN-p)	-.18	.10
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ	-.93	.29	.001
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q-shape concern	-.98	.29	.001

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q-weight concern	-1.01	.29	.001
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	SATAQ-internalization	-.42	.28	.133
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDDS composite	-1.44	.31	<.001
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q-eating concern	-.70	.28	.014
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Impulsivity	BEQ-impulse strength	.46	.28	.097
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Impulsivity	BIS-11	-.12	.28	.664
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	MPS-concern over mistakes	-.20	.28	.470
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	MPS-doubts about actions	-.43	.28	.122
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	MPS-personal standards	.03	.28	.917
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Purging frequency		-.24	.28	.382
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-disinhibition	-1.74	.32	<.001
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-hunger	-1.31	.30	<.001
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Restraint	TFEQ-restraint	.10	.28	.722
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	SBE frequency		-.73	.28	.011
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Self-esteem	RSE	.90	.29	.002
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	BSQ	1.77	.36	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q-shape concern	2.01	.38	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-Q-weight concern	1.83	.37	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	SATAQ-internalization	1.55	.35	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EDDS composite	1.84	.37	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EDE-Q-eating concern	.64	.31	.041
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Impulsivity	BEQ-impulse strength	.42	.31	.180
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Impulsivity	BIS-11	.30	.31	.327
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Perfectionism	MPS-concern over mistakes	.95	.32	.003
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Perfectionism	MPS-doubts about actions	.59	.31	.060
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Perfectionism	MPS-personal standards	.53	.31	.091
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Restraint	TFEQ-disinhibition	.65	.31	.040
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Restraint	TFEQ-hunger	-.08	.31	.793
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Restraint	TFEQ-restraint	1.44	.35	<.001
	PD vs. Control	PD vs. Control	Self-esteem	RSE	-.67	.32	.032
	PD vs. BED	PD vs. BED	Anxiety	PTSD	1.68	.97	.084

Solmi, Hotopf, Hatch, Treasure, and Micali
(2016)

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Stice, Marti, and Rohde (2013)		PD vs. BED	Substance abuse	AUDIT (Hazardous drinking)	2.25	1.01	.027
		PD vs. BED	Suicidality	History of ideation or attempt	1.32	.72	.067
		PD vs. BN	Anxiety	PTSD	.00	.64	1.000
		PD vs. BN	Substance abuse	AUDIT (Hazardous drinking)	.89	.72	.214
		PD vs. BN	Suicidality	History of ideation or attempt	.55	.70	.437
		PD vs. Control	Anxiety	PTSD	2.71	.82	.001
		PD vs. Control	Substance abuse	AUDIT (Hazardous drinking)	2.54	.71	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Suicidality	History of ideation or attempt	1.50	.65	.021
		PD vs. BED	Duration of illness	Months	.46	.35	.193
		PD vs. BED	Impairment	Functional impairment (Social Adjustment Scale-Self Report for Youth)	-.59	.35	.097
		PD vs. BED	Natural course	% remitted	.09	.77	.909
	Støving et al. (2012)		PD vs. BED	Suicidality	Suicidality	-.05	.35
		PD vs. BED	Treatment history	Number of visits to mental health providers	-.52	.35	.140
		PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months	.87	.38	.021
		PD vs. BN	Impairment	Functional impairment (Social Adjustment Scale-Self Report for Youth)	-.22	.36	.546
		PD vs. BN	Natural course	% remitted	-.49	.90	.585
		PD vs. BN	Suicidality	Suicidality	.04	.36	.908
		PD vs. BN	Treatment history	Number of visits to mental health providers	-.56	.37	.127
		PD vs. Control	Impairment	Functional impairment	.43	.25	.086
		PD vs. Control	Suicidality	Suicidality	1.36	.25	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Treatment history	Number of visits to mental health providers	.38	.25	.130
		PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months	-.90	.55	.103
Tasca et al. (2012)			PD vs. AN	Impairment	Functional impairment (Social Adjustment Scale-Self Report for Youth)	-.66	.54
		PD vs. AN	Natural course	% remitted	.87	.82	.284
		PD vs. AN	Suicidality	Suicidality	.70	.54	.200
		PD vs. AN	Treatment history	Number of visits to mental health providers	-1.22	.57	.031
		PD vs. AN	Age of onset	(PD group: vomiting and laxatives)	.09	.25	.721
		PD vs. AN	Treatment history	(PD group: vomiting and laxatives)	-.83	.25	.001
		AN-bp	Anxiety	PAI-anxiety	-.17	.12	.159
		AN-bp	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction	.28	.12	.023

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness	.08	.12	.512
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Depression	PAL-depression	-.30	.12	.016
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months	-.04	.12	.745
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	-.39	.12	.001
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	-.22	.12	.070
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Substance abuse	Alcohol problems	.26	.12	.035
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Suicidality	Suicidal ideation	-.08	.12	.494
	AN-bp	PD vs. AN	Treatment outcome	Treatment outcome (no binge purge symptoms for final 4 weeks of program, >=11 weeks of treatment, BMI 20)	.27	.14	.050
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Anxiety	PAL-anxiety	.34	.13	.007
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction	.89	.13	<.001
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness	.66	.13	<.001
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Depression	PAL-depression	.35	.13	.005
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Duration of illness	Months	.43	.12	<.001
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	1.17	.13	.000
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	.07	.12	.589
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Substance abuse	Alcohol problems	.46	.13	<.001
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Suicidality	Suicidal ideation	.48	.13	<.001
	AN-r	PD vs. AN	Treatment outcome	% achieving 'good outcome' defined by article	.35	.14	.011
	PD vs. BN		Anxiety	PAL-anxiety (BN-p)	.21	.10	.038
	PD vs. BN		Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction (BN-p)	-.05	.10	.594
	PD vs. BN		Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness (BN-p)	.03	.10	.766
	PD vs. BN		Depression	PAL-depression (BN-p)	.20	.10	.051
	PD vs. BN		Duration of illness	Months (BN-p)	.09	.10	.381
	PD vs. BN		Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia (BN-p)	-1.49	.11	.000
	PD vs. BN		Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism (BN-p)	.20	.10	.058
	PD vs. BN		Substance abuse	Alcohol problems (BN-p)	-.02	.11	.812
	PD vs. BN		Suicidality	Suicidal ideation (BN-p)	.06	.11	.580
	PD vs. BN		Treatment outcome	% achieving 'good outcome' defined by article	-.20	.14	.152
Tobin, Griffing, and Griffing (1997)	PD vs. BED		Anxiety	SCL-90 anxiety (BN-mp)	.64	.27	.017
	PD vs. BED		Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction	-.52	.26	.043
	PD vs. BED		Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness	.58	.26	.023

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Wade (2007)	PD vs. BED	PD vs. BED	Depression	SCL-90 depression	.23	.26	.386
	PD vs. BED	PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia	-.69	.26	.008
	PD vs. BED	PD vs. BED	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism	.33	.25	.188
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Anxiety	SCL-90 anxiety (BN-np)	-.07	.29	.814
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Anxiety	SCL-90 anxiety (BN-p)	.09	.21	.655
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction (BN-np)	-.44	.28	.119
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-body dissatisfaction (BN-p)	-.03	.20	.887
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness (BN-np)	-.06	.28	.838
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDI-drive for thinness (BN-p)	-.09	.20	.654
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Depression	SCL-90 depression (BN-np)	-.12	.29	.669
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Depression	SCL-90 depression (BN-p)	-.03	.21	.875
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia (BN-np)	-1.18	.30	<.001
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDI-bulimia (BN-p)	-1.04	.20	.000
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism (BN-np)	-.07	.28	.791
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	EDI-perfectionism (BN-p)	-.10	.20	.625
	PD vs. AN	PD vs. AN	Self-esteem	RSE (unpublished data)	.44	.27	.096
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Depression	Lifetime depression	-.44	.29	.128
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Impulsivity	BIS-11	-.42	.25	.094
	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Perfectionism	MPQ-concern over mistakes	-3.10	.36	<.001
	Wade, Bergin, Tiggemann, Bulik, and Fairburn (2006)	PD vs. BN	PD vs. BN	Self-esteem	RSE	1.84	.29
PD vs. BN		PD vs. BN	Suicidality	SSAGA	-5.34	.50	<.001
PD vs. Control		PD vs. Control	Impulsivity	BIS-11	1.39	.15	<.001
PD vs. Control		PD vs. Control	Perfectionism	MPQ-concern over mistakes	4.10	.18	<.001
PD vs. Control		PD vs. Control	Self-esteem	RSE	-5.19	.20	<.001
PD vs. Control		PD vs. Control	Suicidality	SSAGA	6.06	.21	<.001
PD vs. BED		PD vs. BED	Age of onset		.04	.23	.857
PD vs. BED		PD vs. BED	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	-.28	.23	.229
PD vs. BED		PD vs. BED	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	-.29	.23	.209
PD vs. BED		PD vs. BED	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	-.55	.23	.018
PD vs. BED		PD vs. BED	Natural course	% asymptomatic	.16	.26	.535
PD vs. BED		PD vs. BED	Purging frequency	(unpublished data)	.27	.26	.311

Study name	AN subtype	Comparison	Outcome	Measure	<i>g</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>p</i>
Watson et al. (2013)		PD vs. BED	Restraint	EDE-restraint	-.45	.23	.051
		PD vs. BED	SBE frequency	(unpublished data)	-.14	.26	.583
		PD vs. BN	Age of onset		.20	.25	.421
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern (BN-p)	-.15	.23	.515
		PD vs. BN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern (BN-p)	-.29	.23	.212
		PD vs. BN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern (BN-p)	-.84	.24	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Natural course	% asymptomatic (BN-p)	.36	.30	.241
		PD vs. BN	Purging frequency	(unpublished data)	.04	.25	.875
		PD vs. BN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (BN-p)	-.52	.23	.025
		PD vs. BN	SBE frequency	(unpublished data)	-1.39	.28	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern	.79	.14	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern	.75	.14	<.001
		PD vs. Control	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern	.26	.14	.068
		PD vs. Control	Restraint	EDE-restraint	.50	.14	<.001
		PD vs. AN	Age of onset		1.00	.28	<.001
	Wolfe, Jimerson, Smith, and Keel (2011)		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-shape concern (unpublished data for full criteria AN group)	.16	.26
		PD vs. AN	Body dissatisfaction	EDE-weight concern (unpublished data for full criteria AN group)	.12	.26	.645
		PD vs. AN	Eating psychopathology	EDE-eating concern (unpublished data for full criteria AN group)	.11	.26	.685
		PD vs. AN	Purging frequency	(unpublished data)	.24	.29	.414
		PD vs. AN	Restraint	EDE-restraint (unpublished data for full criteria AN group)	.37	.27	.168
		PD vs. AN	SBE frequency	(unpublished data for full criteria AN group)	-.08	.29	.783
		PD vs. BED	Natural course	% with no ED diagnosis at follow-up- training sample	.98	.26	<.001
		PD vs. BED	Natural course	% with no ED diagnosis at follow-up - validation sample	.98	.25	<.001
		PD vs. BN	Natural course	% with no ED diagnosis at follow-up - BN-p training sample	.90	.28	.001
		PD vs. BN	Natural course	% with no ED diagnosis at follow-up - BN-p validation sample	.97	.26	<.001
	PD vs. BN	Duration of illness	Months	-.36	.33	.270	
	PD vs. BN	Purging frequency		.77	.34	.022	

Note. PD = Purging Disorder; AN = Anorexia Nervosa; BN = Bulimia Nervosa; BN-p = BN purging subtype; BN-np = BN nonpurging subtype; BED = Binge Eating Disorder; AN-bp = AN binge-purge subtype; AN-r = AN restricting subtype; N.S.=Not specified; EDE = Eating Disorder Examination; BDI = Beck Depression Inventory; RSE = Rosenberg Self-Esteem Questionnaire; K-SADS = Kiddie Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia; BAI = Beck Anxiety Inventory; EDI = Eating Disorder Inventory; SCL-90 = Symptom Checklist 90; BSQ = Body Shape Questionnaire; TFEQ = Three Factor Eating Questionnaire; IDS-SR = Inventory of Depressive Symptoms-Self Report; PHQ = Patient Health Questionnaire; EAT = Eating Attitudes Test; SATAQ = Sociocultural Attitudes Towards

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Appearance Scale; MPS = Multidimensional Perfectionism Questionnaire; SAS-SR = Social Adjustment Scale-Self Report for Youth; PAI = Personality Assessment Inventory; CPRS = Comprehensive Psychiatric Rating Scale; MASC Multidimensional Anxiety Scale for Children-10; CDI = Children's Depression Inventory; DEBQ = Dutch Eating Behavior Questionnaire; Barratt Impulsiveness Scale-11; IBS = Impulsive Behavior Scale; MRFS-IV = McKnight Risk Factors Survey IV; PAI = Personality Assessment Inventory; SSAGA = Semi-structured Assessment for the Genetics of Alcohol; AUDIT = Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test; PTSD = Post-traumatic Stress Disorder; DAST = Drug Abuse Screening Test; MAST = Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test; EDDDS = Eating Disorder Diagnostic Scale.

^a BED data were not coded from Eddy et al. (2008) because of the presence of subclinical BED within this group.

^b Other diagnostic groups were not included from Fink et al. (2009) because of the presence of subclinical disorders within these groups.

^c Goldschmidt et al. (2016) differentiated between PD with and without loss of control (LOC) eating groups.

^d PD group was coded from "SBN" group in Keel et al. (2001).

^e Data for the PD group in Nakai et al. (2013) were unpublished information sent by the first author.