**Body dysmorphic disorder** (**BDD**) is a mental disorder characterized by an obsessive preoccupation that some aspect of one's own appearance is severely flawed and warrants exceptional measures to hide or fix it.[1] In BDD's delusional variant, the flaw is imagined.[2] If the flaw is actual, its importance is severely exaggerated.[2] Either way, one's thoughts about it are pervasive and intrusive, occupying up to several hours a day. The [*DSM-5*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DSM-5) categorizes BDD in the [obsessive–compulsive spectrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obsessive%E2%80%93compulsive_spectrum), and distinguishes it from [anorexia nervosa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anorexia_nervosa).

A fairly common mental disorder, estimated to affect up to 2.4% of the population, BDD usually starts during adolescence, and affects men and women roughly equally.[2][3] (The BDD subtype [muscle dysmorphia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscle_dysmorphia), perceiving the body as too small, affects mostly males.)[4] Besides thinking about it, one repetitively checks and compares the perceived flaw, and can adopt unusual routines to avoid social contact that exposes it.[2] Fearing the stigma of vanity, one usually hides the preoccupation.[2] Commonly unsuspected even by psychiatrists, BDD has been greatly underdiagnosed.[2] Severely impairing quality of life via educational and occupational dysfunction and social isolation, BDD involves especially high rates of [suicidal ideation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suicidal_ideation) and [suicide attempts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suicide_attempt).[2]

**MY THOUGHTS**

LARKIN AND BDD

Thinks he is ugly

Weighed himself on two sets of scales daily \_ where are the notebooks for this?

Drew himself as an animal - covered in a coat – doodles are increasingly anthropomorphic rather than human

Refers to his own body and height and bald head a lot

Avoids a sense of vanity – yet as a young man was a natty dresser – and all those shirts and ties!

Avoids certain kinds of physical sexual intimacy?