

Dissociative Personality Disorder Scorings and Perceptanalytic Signs on the Rorschach

A good deal of research on Dissociative Identity Disorder (formerly multiple personality disorder) was carried out by Edwin E. Wagner. I did some in 1992. Essentially, fugue states were not studied, but dissociation and DID were examined. The **Wagner Signs** were developed using the Perceptanalysis System, so their efficacy with the Comprehensive System is untested, but the scores are similar and face validity suggests the possibility of generalization. The Wagner Signs are:

1. [M+FM+m (all form levels counted, including parenthesized) greater than or equal to 6; 2. At least two qualitatively diverse M;
3. Oppression or aggression on at least one of the movement scores;
4. SumC greater than or equal to 3, with CF + C greater than FC
5. At least one positive (e.g. flower) and one negative (eg. blood) color response;

When all five signs are present, positive diagnosis for DID. Sometimes "splitting" responses may be present and some card failures may indicate dissociation, but these are not always present and not restricted to these interpretations.

The Barach Signs were reported in the literature, but later found to be flawed in the study.

The **Labbott Signs** were found to be only random identifiers for outpatients, but are reported as good indicators for inpatients. They consist of:

1. Splitting responses, which consist of human splitting, abstract splitting and division suggest a separation of emotion from thinking.
2. Dissociative Responses, such as viewing a subject through smoke clouds or a haze. The presence of smoke or clouds alone is not a dissociative response.

When the Sum of Splitting plus Dissociative responses is greater than or equals 2, then it is considered positive for DID.

Armstrong reported **Traumatic Content** (TC) using the **CS**, where TC was composed of Ag + Mor + Sex + Anat + Blood/Responses. In the DID study, she found a TC equal or greater than 35.

By extrapolation (NOT by studies), one might expect the CS configuration to look like:

1. Sum M greater than Sum (M)
2. M greater than or equal to SumC
3. SumC greater than or equal to 4
4. Lambda from 0.11 to 0.71
5. Large number of blends
6. FD greater than or equal to 1.5

Citations that may assist:

Armstrong, J. (1991) The psychological organization of multiple personality disordered patients as revealed in psychological testing. *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 14, 533-546.

Labott, S. Leavitt, F., Braun, B. and Sachs, R. (1992). Rorschach indicators of multiple personality disorder. *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 75, 147-158.

Lovitt, R. and Lefkof, G. (1985). Understanding multiple personality with the comprehensive Rorschach system. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 49, 289-294.

Young, G. R. Wagner, E.E. and Finn, R.F. (1994). A comparison of three Rorschach diagnostic systems and use of the Hand Test for detecting multiple personality disorder in outpatients. *Journal of Personality Assessment*, 62 (3), 485-497.

The article by Young, Wagner and Finn contains other earlier references to Wagner's original works. Good Luck and I hope this helps.