Predisposing factors. No information.

Prevalence and sex ratio. The disorder is apparently common, and is diagnosed much more frequently in females than in males.

Familial pattern. The disorder is apparently more common among first-degree biologic relatives of people with this disorder than among the general population.

Differential diagnosis. In Somatization Disorder, complaints of physical illness dominate the clinical picture, although histrionic features are common. In many cases Somatization Disorder and Histrionic Personality Disorder coexist. Borderline Personality Disorder is also often present; in such cases both diagnoses should be made.

In Dependent Personality Disorder, the person similarly is excessively dependent on others for praise and guidance, but is without the flamboyant, exaggerated, emotional features of Histrionic Personality Disorder. People with Narcissistic Personality Disorder are similarly excessively self-centered, but are usually preoccupied with a grandiose sense of self and with intense envy.

### Diagnostic criteria for 301.50 Histrionic Personality Disorder

A pervasive pattern of excessive emotionality and attention-seeking, beginning by early adulthood and present in a variety of contexts, as indicated by at least four of the following:

1. constantly seeks or demands reassurance, approval, or praise
2. is inappropriately sexually seductive in appearance or behavior
3. is overly concerned with physical attractiveness
4. expresses emotion with inappropriate exaggeration, e.g., embraces casual acquaintances with excessive ardor, uncontrollable sobbing on minor sentimental occasions, has temper tantrums
5. is uncomfortable in situations in which he or she is not the center of attention
6. displays rapidly shifting and shallow expression of emotions
7. is self-centered, actions being directed toward obtaining immediate satisfaction; has no tolerance for the frustration of delayed gratification
8. has a style of speech that is excessively impressionistic and lacking in detail, e.g., when asked to describe mother, can be no more specific than, “She was a beautiful person.”

### 301.81 Narcissistic Personality Disorder

The essential feature of this disorder is a pervasive pattern of grandiosity (in fantasy or behavior), hypersensitivity to the evaluation of others, and lack of empathy that begins by early adulthood and is present in a variety of contexts.

People with this disorder have a grandiose sense of self-importance. They tend to exaggerate their accomplishments and talents, and expect to be noticed as “special” even without appropriate achievement. They often feel that because of their “specialness,” their problems are unique, and can be understood only by other special people. Frequently this sense of self-importance alternates with feelings of special unworthiness. For example, a student who ordinarily expects an A and receives a grade of A