AUDIT: Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test [1]

Developed by the World Health Organization (WHO)

Description

- **Length/Time:** 10 items, about 3 minutes to administer and score
- **Developed by:** World Health Organization (WHO), 1989; Revised 2001
- **Target Population:** Adults
- **Intended Settings:** Primary care, emergency rooms, psychiatric clinics, courts, jails, prisons, armed forces, industries, colleges and universities
- **Assesses:** Hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption within the past year
- **Administered by:** Patient interview or Self-Report
- **Available Formats:** Computerized self-report, print
- **Copyright:** Yes

Evidence

- The AUDIT was developed from a WHO collaborative project and validated in six countries. It was designed for international use and shown to be relatively free from cultural biases (Saunders, et al, 2006).
- Shown to perform well in detecting subjects with formal alcohol disorders and hazardous alcohol intake and useful for early detection (Piccinelli, et al, 1997).
- Sensitive to detecting current problems, not just past alcohol issues (Laasacson, et al, 1994).
- Shown effective across a variety of subpopulations, including primary care patients, emergency room cases, drug users, university students, unemployed and persons of low socio-economic status (Babor, et al, 2001).

Indications

- To identify individuals whose alcohol consumption has become harmful and hazardous to their health
- Of the 10 item questionnaire, 3 questions are on amount or frequency of drinking, 3 on alcohol dependence and 4 on problems caused by alcohol.
- Involved in a decision process which may include intervention or treatment for those patients with hazardous alcohol use behaviors.

Advantages:

- Cross-Cultural Standardization: AUDIT is the only screening test validated internationally and specifically designed for cross-national use
- Brief and able to be used in a wide variety of health care settings
AUDIT: Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test
Published on OpioidRisk (https://www.opioidrisk.com)

- Identifies hazardous alcohol consumption and early stages of dependence
- Focuses on current alcohol use
- Equally appropriate for both women and men

Limitations:

- Not designed for use on adolescents or pregnant women; less effective in older adults (Powell & McInness, 1994)
- Designed for identification of hazardous drinking patterns and not for long-term dependence problems

More Information on AUDIT [3]

View References


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[1] https://www.opioidrisk.com/node/897