SASSI: Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory
Developed by the SASSI Institute, 1988

Description

- **Length/Time:** 93 true/false items for adults, 100 for adolescents; About 20-25 minutes to administer and score
- **Developed by:** The SASSI Institute, 1988; Revised 1994 and 1998
- **Target Population:** Adults and adolescents
- **Intended Settings:** Inpatient and outpatient, courts, jails and prisons, psychiatric clinics, and educational and vocational settings
- **Assesses:** Identification of individuals with a high probability of substance abuse or dependence, particularly patients in denial
- **Administered by:** Self-Report
- **Available Formats:** Computerized self-report, Print, Online
- **Copyright:** Yes

Evidence

- SASSI has shown to be extremely sensitive and specific across a range of clinical populations (Lazowski, et al, 1998)
- Excellent psychometrics (Passik, et al, 2008)

Indications

- Designed to identify individuals with a high probability of having a diagnosable substance-use disorder so that they may be further evaluated regarding specific diagnostic criteria
- Designed to identify people with substance use disorders regardless of whether they were able or willing to acknowledge relevant symptoms

Advantages

- Decreased susceptibility to deception due to inclusion of both face-valid items and subtle items that bear no apparent relation to substance abuse
- Score not influenced by demographic variables (Lazowski, et al, 1998) or gender (Gray, 2001)

Limitations
- Not validated in pain patients
- More time consuming to administer and score than other assessment tools
- May have lower predictive value for African Americans than for Caucasians and Hispanics (Peters, et al, 2000).

More Information on SASSI [2]

The SASSI Institute [3]

References


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