**Assessment Overview**

**Assessment Area**

ICF Domain: Body Function  
Subcategory: Mental Functions

**You Will Need**

Length: 53 items – approximately 8-12 minutes

Scoring: Self-report format; respondents rank each item on a 5-point scale ranging from 0 (not at all) to 4 (extremely). Rankings represent the intensity of distress over the past week.

Equipment: N/a

**Summary**

The Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI) is the shortened version of the Symptoms Checklist-90. The BSI covers nine symptom dimensions of depression: Somatization, Obsession-compulsion, Interpersonal sensitivity, Depression, Anxiety, Hostility, Phobic anxiety, Paranoid ideation, and Psychoticism. Three global indices of distress are also used: Global Severity Index, Positive Symptom Distress Index, and Positive Symptom Total. These measure the number and intensity of reported symptoms, as well as current or past level of symptomatology.

**Availability**


**Assessment Interpretability**

**Minimal Clinically Important Difference**

Not established in SCI

**Statistical Error**

Not established in SCI

**Typical Values**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subscale</th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somatization</td>
<td>60.52 (9.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obsessive-compulsive</td>
<td>53.42 (11.39)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal Sensitivity</td>
<td>52.85 (13.46)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>55.95 (12.49)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety</td>
<td>52.40 (13.65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostility</td>
<td>51.20 (11.77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phobic Anxiety</td>
<td>54.80 (11.70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paranoid Ideation</td>
<td>53.23 (12.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychoticism</td>
<td>54.10 (10.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Severity Index (GSI)</td>
<td>56.98 (11.69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Symptom Total</td>
<td>53.53 (12.15)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Mitchell et al. 2008; n=40, 20 males)
# Measurement Properties

## Validity – Low to Moderate

**Moderate** correlation with Spinal Cord Injury Lifestyle Scale (SCILS):
- BSI – Depression subscale: $r = -0.48$
- BSI – Anxiety subscale: $r = -0.42$

**Low to Moderate** correlation with Health Behaviour Questionnaire (HBQ):
- BSI – Depression subscale: $r = -0.33$
- BSI – Anxiety subscale: $r = -0.17$

(Shabany et al. 2018, N=97 traumatic SCI (77 males); age range: 26+; 79.4% paraplegia, 20.6% tetraplegia; 61.9% complete injury, 38.1% incomplete injury)

Number of studies reporting validity data: 1

## Reliability – High

**High** Internal Consistency:
- $\alpha = 0.96$

(Tate et al. 1993; n=162, 128 males)

Number of studies reporting reliability data: 1

## Responsiveness

**Floor/Ceiling Effect:**
- Not established in SCI

**Effect Size:**
- Not established in SCI

Number of studies reporting responsiveness data: 0