

The CAGE Questionnaire

Assessment Overview

Assessment Area

ICF Domain:

Body Function

Subcategory:

Mental Functions

You Will Need

Length:

5 minutes, 4 items

Scoring:

4 yes/no questions

Item responses on the CAGE are scored 0 or 1, with a higher score being an indication of alcohol problems. A total score of 2 or greater is considered clinically significant.

Summary

The CAGE is a 4 item self-report screening questionnaire used to identify those individuals for whom more extensive evaluation of alcohol use is recommended. It is the oldest and likely most extensively used questionnaire across a variety of clinical and research settings. Originally developed for use with adults, it has been used in elderly populations as well.

Typically, two or more of the questions answered affirmatively are considered to be “CAGE positive”, though some suggest a positive response to a single item warrants more in-depth investigation of consumption.

Availability

Available for free here:

http://nationalpaincentre.mcmaster.ca/documents/cage_questionnaire.pdf

Languages: English

Assessment Interpretability

Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established in SCI

Statistical Error

Not established in SCI

Typical Values

Mean (SD) scores:

Total sample: 0.75 (1.20)

Drinkers: 1.00 (1.29)

(Tate et al. 1993; n=155, 121 males, mixed injury types, traumatic SCI; no information on chronicity)

Measurement Properties

Validity – **Low** to **Moderate**

Moderate correlation with self-reported alcohol abuse history:

$r = 0.53$

Moderate correlation with average number of drinks consumed weekly prior to injury:

$r = 0.38$

Low correlation with drug abuse history:

$r = 0.28$

(Tate et al. 1993; $n=155$, 121 males, mixed injury types, traumatic SCI; no information on chronicity)

Number of studies reporting validity data: 1

Reliability

Not established in SCI

Number of studies reporting reliability data: 0

Responsiveness

Floor/Ceiling Effect:

Not established in SCI

Effect Size:

Not established in SCI

Number of studies reporting

responsiveness data: 0