Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI)

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

Worksheet: Can be purchased here.

Assessment Interpretability

Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established in SCI

Statistical Error

Not established in SCI

Typical Values

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

(Mitchell et al. 2008; n=40, 20 males; paraplegia and tetraplegia; mean (SD) time since injury: 113.9 months)

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:

α = 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