The Scaled General Health Questionnaire-28 (GHQ-28):

- self-report questionnaire
- used for the detection of psychiatric distress related to general medical illness. Respondents indicate if their current “state” differs from his or her usual state - thereby assessing change in characteristics and not lifelong personality characteristics.
- designed to assess 4 aspects of distress:
  1) Depression
  2) Anxiety
  3) Social impairment
  4) Hypochondriasis

ICF Domain:
Body Function – Subcategory: Mental Functions

Number of Items:
28

Instructions for Administration and Scoring:

Administration:
- self-administered questionnaire
- patients base their responses on their health state over the past two weeks.
- administration time is usually approximately 5 minutes.

Equipment: None.

Scoring:
- Calculation of total score
- Different scoring methods of scoring are possible, which will affect the total score. The traditional scoring method provided assigns a score of 0 for responses 1 and 2 (“not at all” and “no more than usual”) and a score of 1 for responses 3 and 4 (“rather more than usual” and “much more than usual”). Another scoring method in use assigns a score of 0 for response 1 and a score of 1 for response 2-4 for the 18 negative items, and a score of 0 for responses 1 and 2, a score of 1 for responses 3 and 4 for the 7 positive items.

Interpretability:

MCID: not established
SEM: not established
MDC: not established
- Total score range from 0 to 28.
- Higher scores indicate a greater probability of a psychiatric distress.
- Total scores that exceed 4 out of 28 suggest probable distress.
• Cut-points and normative data have not been established for the SCI population.

Languages:
Translated into 38 languages.

Training Required:
No special training is required.

Availability:
Can be purchased from https://shop.psych.acer.edu.au/acer-shop/product/

Clinical Considerations:
• The GHQ-28’s subscales represent dimensions of symptomatology and not distinct diagnoses.
• As the scales are not independent of each other, the total score has better utility to indicate general psychological disorder than the individual scores do to screen for specific psychological disorders.
• Only one study has assessed the construct validity of the GHQ-28 among SCI populations.
• The GHQ-28 is appropriate for individuals who are at least 11 years of age.

Measurement Property Summary:
# of studies reporting psychometric properties: 1

Reliability:
No values have been reported for the reliability of the GHQ-28 for the SCI population.

Validity:
• Correlation of the GHQ-28 is excellent with the Clinical Interview Scale (r=0.83).
• With the 0011 scoring scheme, optimum discrimination occurred near GHQ 3/4, giving a specificity of 0.82 and a sensitivity of 0.81.
[Griffiths et al. 1993]

Responsiveness:
No values have been reported for the responsiveness of the GHQ-28 for the SCI population.

Floor/ceiling effect:
No values were reported for the presence of floor/ceiling effects in the GHQ-28 for the SCI population.

Reviewer:
Christie Chan

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