Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment (CIWA-AD)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
The CIWA-AD based on DSM-III-R is an 8-item scale for clinical quantification of the severity of the alcohol withdrawal syndrome. Its origins stem from the 15-item CIWA-A (Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology 1:382-387, 1981) and the more recent revised 10-item CIWA-Ar (British Journal of Addictions, 84:1353-1357, 1989). It is a reliable, brief, uncomplicated, and clinically useful scale that can also be used to monitor response to treatment. This scale offers an increase in efficiency over the original CIWA-A scale, while retaining clinical usefulness, validity, and reliability. It can be incorporated into the usual clinical care of patients undergoing alcohol withdrawal and into clinical drug trials of alcohol withdrawal.

TARGET POPULATION
☒ Adults
☐ Adolescents

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES
Number of items: 8
Format(s): ☒ Pencil-and-paper self-administered
☐ Interview
☒ Observation
☐ Computer self-administered
☐ Other

Time required for administration: 2 minutes
Administered by: Nurses, doctors, research associates/detoxification unit workers
Training required for administration? ☒ yes ☐ no

SCORING
Time required to score/interpret: 4 to 5 minutes
Scored by: Administrator
Computerized scoring or interpretation available? ☒ yes ☐ no
Norms available? ☒ yes ☐ no
Instrument normed on subgroups? ☒ yes ☐ no

PSYCHOMETRICS
Have reliability studies been done? ☒ yes ☐ no
Have validity studies been done? ☒ yes ☐ no
CLINICAL UTILITY OF INSTRUMENT

The CIWA-AD is useful for clinical quantification of the severity of the alcohol withdrawal syndrome. Use of the scale can be incorporated into the usual care of patients undergoing alcohol withdrawal. The scale improves staff awareness of the elements of the clinical syndrome and helps structure clinical treatment decisions.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

The scale identifies the minimal clinical features and converts the DSM-III-R items into scores for tracking severity over time and thus is essential to clinical research. The scale is useful as a research tool in quantitating the efficacy of drugs used in the treatment of alcohol withdrawal.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: ☑ yes ☐ no
Cost: Unknown
Source: E.M. Sellers
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SOURCE REFERENCE


SUPPORTING REFERENCES


