Leeds Dependence Questionnaire (LDQ)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The LDQ measures substance dependence. Dependence has been formulated into a purely psychological understanding so that pathophysiological elements of the dependence syndrome, namely tolerance and withdrawal, are translated into psychological terms and become universal. The instrument is capable of measuring change in dependence and can therefore be used to follow treatment progress and evaluate treatment outcomes. The LDQ measures dependence in abstinent patients. The LDQ has been validated for use with alcohol and heroin users and smokers.

**TARGET POPULATION**

- Adults
- Adolescents (over 16 years)

**Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?**

The scale has generally been used with adult substance users. The instrument is sensitive to mild and moderate levels of dependence and so can be helpful in determining treatment goals. The LDQ has been used with male and female patients and patients with mental illness problems who have dual diagnoses.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

- Number of items: 10
- Number of subscales: 0
- Format(s):  
  - ✕ Pencil-and-paper self-administered
  - ✕ Interview (structured)
  - □ Observation
  - □ Computer self-administered
  - □ Other

- Time required for administration: 2 to 5 minutes
- Administered by: Self or interviewer
- Training required for administration?: □ yes ✕ no
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SCORING
- Time required to score/interpret: 1/2 minute
- Scored by: Administrator
- Scoring key? □ yes □ no
- Computerized scoring or interpretation available? □ yes □ no
- Norms available? □ yes □ no (in clinical population)
- Instrument normed on subgroups? □ yes □ no

PSYCHOMETRICS
- Have reliability studies been done? □ yes □ no
- What measure(s) of reliability was used?
  - □ Test-retest
  - □ Split half
  - □ Internal consistency
- Have validity studies been done? □ yes □ no
- What measures of validity have been derived?
  - □ Content
  - □ Criterion (predictive, concurrent, “postdictive”)
  - □ Construct

CLINICAL UTILITY OF INSTRUMENT
- A diagnostic measure of the severity of dependence, an important measure in determining treatment goals, and a treatment outcome measure that works with abstinent patients

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY
- Has a capacity to measure change in dependence over a period of a few weeks. Can be used to compare different subject groups on the variable severity of dependence. Can be used as a proxy measure of use (in nonabstinent groups).

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES
- Copyright: □ yes □ no
- Cost: None
- Source: Leeds Addiction Unit
- Web site: www.lau.org.uk
  or
- 19 Springfield Mount
  Leeds, LS2 9NG
  West Yorkshire
  United Kingdom
SOURCE REFERENCE

SUPPORTING REFERENCES


The LDQ is also being used in the UK Alcohol Treatment Trial (results early 2003).