

Rapid Alcohol Problems Screen (RAPS4)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The RAPS4 is a four-item instrument that provides high sensitivity and specificity across gender and ethnic groups (White, Black, Hispanic) for alcohol dependence during the last year in clinical populations. A positive response to any one of the items signifies positive for alcohol dependence based on ICD-10 and/or DSM-IV criteria for the 12 months.

TARGET POPULATION

- Adults
 Adolescents (over 16 years)

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?

Patients in the ER and primary care settings

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Number of items: 4

Number of subscales:

- Format(s): Pencil-and-paper self-administered
 Interview
 Observation
 Computer self-administered
 Other

Time required for administration: 1 minute

Administered by: *Clinical staff*

Training required for administration? yes no

SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: *Immediate—positive response on any one of the four items is positive for alcohol dependence*

Scored by: *Clinical staff*

Scoring key? yes no

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

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

For use with patients in determining alcohol dependence in last year. There is no weighting, adding, or scoring of responses. A positive response on any one item qualifies as positive. The first item (feeling guilt or remorse) identifies over 80 percent of those meeting criteria for alcohol dependence.

RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

Same as above.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: yes no

Cost: *None*

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SOURCE REFERENCE

Cherpitel, C.J. (2000). A brief screening instrument for alcohol dependence in the emergency room: The RAPS 4. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 61, 447-449.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE

Cherpitel, C.J. (1995). Screening for alcohol problems in the emergency room: A rapid alcohol problems screen. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 40, 133-137.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE VERSIONS AND HOW TO OBTAIN

Spanish Contact author.

KEY REFERENCES FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE VERSIONS

Borges, A. & Cherpitel, C.J. (2001). Selection of screening items for alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence among Mexicans and Mexican Americans in the emergency department. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 62, 277-285.

Cherpitel, C.J. & Borges, A. (2000). Performance of screening instruments for alcohol problems in the ER: A comparison of Mexican-Americans and Mexicans in Mexico. *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 26, 683-702.