Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire (SADQ)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**
The SADQ is a short, easy-to-complete, self-administered, 20-item questionnaire designed to measure severity of dependence on alcohol as formulated by Edwards & Gross (1976) and Edwards (1978). There are five subscales with four items in each: Physical Withdrawal, Affective Withdrawal, Withdrawal Relief Drinking, Alcohol Consumption, and Rapidity of Reinstatement. Each item is scored on a 4-point scale, ranging from “Almost Never” to “Nearly Always,” resulting in a corresponding score of 0 to 3. Thus the total maximum score possible is 60 and the minimum is 0.

**TARGET POPULATION**
- Adults
- Adolescents

Groups for which this instrument might be especially helpful?
The original SADQ as first described in 1979 and further refined in 1983 is designed purely for use with populations of problem drinkers attending treatment facilities of various kinds. The SADQ has been widely used with such groups, and norms exist for inpatient treatment units, outpatient clinics, community-based services, and controlled drinking program attenders, to name but a few. A more recent version of the SADQ (SADQ-C) has been developed for use in general health settings and in population surveys.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**
- Number of items: 20
- Number of subscales: 5
- Format(s): Pencil-and-paper self-administered
  - Interview
  - Observation
  - Computer self-administered
  - Other
- Time required for administration: 5 minutes
- Administered by: Respondent
- Training required for administration? Yes No
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Comments: The questionnaire takes between 2 and 5 minutes to administer. In the original format it is important that the test administrator ensure that respondents focus on, as required by the instructions, a recent period of drinking that is typical of their heavy drinking. If asked, they should be briefed to explain that the “Almost Never” option should be endorsed if strictly speaking “Never” applies best to this particular item. Minor problems such as these have been overcome in the latest version of the SADQ. Computerized formats of the SADQ have been developed, and certainly this brief questionnaire lends itself to such a format.

SCORING

Time required to score/interpret: 1 minute
Scored by: Clinician or researcher
Computerized scoring or interpretation available? □ yes □ no
Norms available? □ yes □ no
Instrument normed on subgroups? □ yes □ no
Which groups? Inpatient, outpatient, and community-based treatment agency attenders in several countries

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
Comments: Maximum score: 60; scores greater than 30 correlate with clinicians' ratings of "severe alcohol dependence." Test-retest reliability of 0.85. Factor analysis yields single main factor accounting for 53 percent of variance.

CLINICAL UTILITY OF INSTRUMENT

Prediction of likelihood of achieving control drinking goal; prediction of withdrawal severity; differential diagnosis of primary or secondary phobic anxiety state
RESEARCH APPLICABILITY

Useful for sample description and selection. In current form not designed as an outcome measure.

SOURCE, COST AND COPYRIGHT ISSUES

Copyright: ☐ yes ☒ no
Cost: None
Source: Tim Stockwell
       National Drug Research Institute
       GPO Box U1987
       Perth WA 6001 Australia

SOURCE REFERENCE


SUPPORTING REFERENCES


