

APPENDIX 7

WEISS FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT RATING SCALE (WFIRS)

Purpose

To evaluate the how an individual is actually able to function.

Allows clinicians to obtain a pre- and post assessment of the patient's specific areas of difficulty.

Unique Characteristics

Questions are framed to assess not only symptoms, but also to what degree an individual's behaviour or emotional problems have impacted various clinically-relevant domains of functioning

The WFIRS offers a significant advantage over use of the Children's Global Assessment Scale (CGAS), providing a greater range of clinically specific and meaningful information. It is sensitive to subtle impairments of attention problems on academic performance, which is not included in the CGAS.

The WFIRS is available in two separate formats:

WFIRS-P, a parent-based version to be completed by the parent/guardian of a child

WFIRS-S, a self-report version appropriate for adolescent and adult self-report of functional impairment associated with ADHD.

Scoring

To calculate the overall mean rating of impairment (range of 0 to 3):

sum of all items with a response value (0 through 3)

divide the sum by the total number of items that have been endorsed (e.g., do not include 'not applicable' items in the total)

Any item scored a '2' or '3' is two standard deviations outside the clinical norms for ADHD and would be considered impaired. A conservative threshold for defining impairment in any domain is either two items scored '2' or one item scored '3'. The mean item score for most domains is '1' with the exception of 'risky activities' which is '0.5'.

Psychometric Properties

This measure has internal consistency of greater than 9 with excellent sensitivity to change, and a higher correlation between symptom change and improvement in ADHD symptoms than any previous measure.

Small to moderate correlations are found between WFIRS and ADHDRS, GAF, and the Child Health Illness Profile (quality of life), indicating that measurement of symptoms should be complemented by an ADHD specific measure of functional impairment.

Details on psychometric validation are in preparation for publication.

Copyright Information

The WFIRS is copyrighted by the University of British Columbia (2000). The authors are solely responsible for its content.

For More Information

Questions about the WFIRS should be emailed to Margaret D. Weiss, M.D., Ph.D.: mweiss@cw.bc.ca