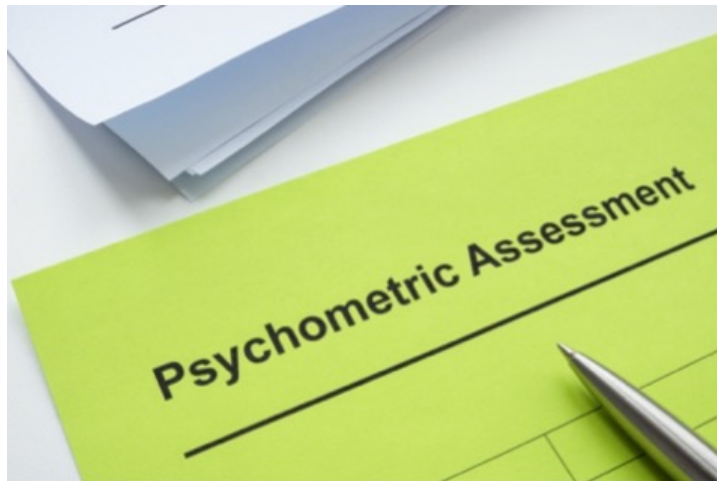




The Attentional Function Index—a self-report cognitive measure

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Inventor

Bernadine Cimprich

Further information

Tina Suntres

tsuntres@umich.edu

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OVERVIEW

Psychometric assessment of perceived cognitive functioning in illness and health

- Measurement of perceived function in daily activities requiring attention, concentration, and cognitive control
- Used in oncology, chronic illness management, gerontology and healthy persons

BACKGROUND

Cognitive assessment in chronic illnesses such as cancer is crucial for understanding how responses to disease and treatments may affect function in everyday life. Self-reports of cognitive complaints provide the ability to detect subtle changes in functioning not detectable in neuropsychological testing. The Attentional Function Index is a self-report measure that has been used with neuropsychological testing to describe perceived cognitive changes in chronic illness as well as healthy individuals.

INNOVATION

The Attentional Function Index (AFI) measures perceived functioning in common daily activities requiring attention and cognitive control, namely the ability to make plans, carry out tasks and function effectively. The 13-item instrument has been rigorously tested in diverse samples. It is

a valid and reliable instrument that consists of three subscales: effective action, attentional lapses, and interpersonal effectiveness. Real-world applications in chronic illness include its use in comprehensive cognitive assessments to identify pre and post treatment impairments as well as mental fatigue in healthy individuals. Ultimately the AFI can be used for the development of targeted interventions to improve patient care, daily functioning, and quality of life.