

Amphetamine Cessation Symptom Assessment (ACSA): description, strengths and knowledge gaps^[1]

Purpose

The 16 item Amphetamine Cessation Symptom Assessment (ACSA) is a clinician rating tool for assessing the severity of amphetamine withdrawal symptoms.^[2]

Drug(s) of Concern

Amphetamine

Observation Period

Last 24 hours

Populations Tested

- Males^[2]
- Adults^[2]

Settings Tested

- AOD specialist services^[2]

Diagnostics

Utility:

- ✓ Validated with an Australian population^[2]
- ✓ Brief and easy to administer and score
- ✓ Suitable for once-daily administration^[2]

Psychometric properties:

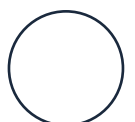
- Satisfactory reliability ($\alpha = 0.76$) and good validity^[2]
- Comprises three subscales: 'anxiety and mood', 'fatigue' and 'craving'^[2,3]

Amphetamine Cessation Symptom Assessment (ACSA)

Please circle (o) one response for each question regarding the past 24 hours

Question
score

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Have you had difficulty concentrating?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. | Have you been sleeping (or wanting to sleep) a lot?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. | Have you been tense?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. | Have you had vivid, unpleasant dreams?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. | Have you felt irritable?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. | Have you been tired?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. | Have you been agitated?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. | Have you felt that life is not worth living?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 9. | How active have you been compared to your usual level of activity?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 10. | Have you felt anxious?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 11. | Have you lost interest in things or no longer take pleasure in them?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 12. | Have you found it difficult to trust other people?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 13. | Have you felt sad?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 14. | Have you felt as if your movements were slow?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 15. | In the past 24 hours, how much of the TIME have you been craving for amphetamines?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |
| 16. | How strong has your craving for amphetamine been?
0 Not at all 1 A little 2 Moderately 3 Quite a bit 4 Extremely | <input type="radio"/> |



Administrator, Rater, Scoring and Interpretation

Administrator: Clinician/Worker

Rater: Clinician/Worker

Scoring & interpretation: The ACSA comprises 16 questions.

Each question is scored on a 5-point scale (i.e., 0,1,2,3, or 4). A total score is calculated by summing responses to all 16 questions. The minimum total score possible is 0, and the maximum total score possible is 64 (i.e. total score range: 0-64).

A higher total score reflects more severe withdrawal symptoms.

Resources

Tool citation: McGregor, C., Srisurapanont, M., Mitchell, A., et al. *Psychometric evaluation of the amphetamine cessation symptom assessment*. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 2008. 34(4): 443-449.^[2]

Copyright: May be downloaded and used with appropriate citation.

Training: None found.

Other: *Grigg, J., Manning, V., Arunogiri S., et al., Methamphetamine Treatment Guidelines: Practice Guidelines for Health Professionals. 2018, Turning Point: Richmond, Victoria.*

<https://www.turningpoint.org.au/sites/default/files/2019-05/Turning-Point-Methamphetamine-Treatment-Guidelines.pdf>

Knowledge Gaps

The ACSA was one of the first tools validated to assess and monitor withdrawal from amphetamine.

Within the Australian context:

- Content and construct validity, and responsiveness is uncertain, particularly amongst women
- Tool acceptance by administrators and raters is unclear.

References

1. Fischer, J.A., Roche, A.M., and Duraisingam, V. *Amphetamine Cessation Symptom Assessment (ACSA): description, strengths and knowledge gaps*. AOD Screening and Withdrawal Tools Collection. 2021, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), Flinders University: Adelaide, South Australia. (overview citation)
2. McGregor, C., Srisurapanont, M., Mitchell, A., et al. *Psychometric evaluation of the amphetamine cessation symptom assessment*. Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, 2008. 34(4): 443-449.
3. Pennay, A.E. and Lee, N.K. *Putting the call out for more research: the poor evidence base for treating methamphetamine withdrawal*. Drug and Alcohol Review, 2011. 30(2): 216-222.
4. Grigg, J., Manning, V., Arunogiri, S., et al. *Methamphetamine treatment guidelines: practice guidelines for health professionals*. 2018, Turning Point: Richmond, Victoria.