

# Amphetamine Withdrawal Questionnaire (AWQ): description, strengths and knowledge gaps<sup>[1]</sup>

## Purpose

The 10 item Amphetamine Withdrawal Questionnaire (AWQ) is a clinician rating tool for assessing the severity of amphetamine withdrawal symptoms.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Drug(s) of Concern

Amphetamine

### Observation Period

Last 24 hours

### Populations Tested

- Males<sup>[2]</sup>
- Adults<sup>[2]</sup>

### Settings Tested

- AOD specialist services<sup>[2]</sup>

## Diagnostics

### Utility:

- ✓ Short and reliable<sup>[2]</sup>

### Psychometric properties:

- Satisfactory internal consistency ( $\alpha = 0.77$ ); Spearman rank order correlation coefficient for test-retest reliability: 0.79
- Principal component analysis, eigenvalue-one test and a varimax rotation performed to elicit the factors of AWQ yielded a three-factor model of AWQ: 'hyperarousal', 'reversed vegetative' and 'anxiety' factors<sup>[2]</sup>

## Amphetamine Withdrawal Questionnaire (AWQ)

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

Question  
score

1.	<b>Have you been craving amphetamine (or methamphetamine)?</b>	Question score
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	<input type="radio"/>
2.	<b>Have you felt sad?</b>	<input type="radio"/>
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	
3.	<b>Have you lost interest in things or no longer take pleasure in them?</b>	<input type="radio"/>
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	
4.	<b>Have you felt anxious?</b>	<input type="radio"/>
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	
5.	<b>Have you felt as if your movements were slow?</b>	<input type="radio"/>
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	
6.	<b>Have you been tired?</b>	<input type="radio"/>
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	
7.	<b>Have you been agitated?</b>	<input type="radio"/>
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	
8.	<b>Has your appetite increased or are you eating too much?</b>	<input type="radio"/>
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	
9.	<b>Have you had any vivid or unpleasant dreams?</b>	<input type="radio"/>
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	
10.	<b>Have you been craving for sleep or sleeping too much?</b>	<input type="radio"/>
	0 Not at all      1 A little      2 Moderately      3 Quite a bit      4 Extremely	
<b>Total Score</b>		<input type="text"/>

### Administrator, Rater, Scoring and Interpretation

Administrator: Clinician/Worker

Rater: Clinician/Worker

Scoring & interpretation: The AWQ consists of ten 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 10 questions. The minimum total score possible is 0, and the maximum total score possible is 40 (i.e. total score range: 0-40).

A higher total score reflects more severe withdrawal symptoms.

## Resources

Tool citation:	Srisurapanont, M., Jarusuraisin, N., and Jittiwutikan, J. <i>Amphetamine withdrawal: I. reliability, validity and factor structure of a measure</i> . Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, 1999. 33(1): 89–93.
Copyright:	May be downloaded and used with appropriate citation.
Training & manual:	None found.
Other:	<i>Grigg, J., V. Manning, S. Arunogiri, et al., Methamphetamine Treatment Guidelines: Practice Guidelines for Health Professionals. 2018, Turning Point: Richmond, Victoria.</i> <a href="https://www.turningpoint.org.au/sites/default/files/2019-05/Turning-Point-Methamphetamine-Treatment-Guidelines.pdf">https://www.turningpoint.org.au/sites/default/files/2019-05/Turning-Point-Methamphetamine-Treatment-Guidelines.pdf</a> <sup>[3]</sup>

## Knowledge Gaps

The AWQ was one of the first tools validated to assess and monitor withdrawal from amphetamine. The AWQ was validated in Thailand, with a sample comprising nearly all males.

Within the Australian context:

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

## References

1. Fischer, J.A., Roche, A.M., and Duraisingam, V. *Amphetamine Withdrawal Questionnaire (AWQ): description, strengths and knowledge gaps*. 2021, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), Flinders University: Adelaide, South Australia. (overview citation)
2. Srisurapanont, M., Jarusuraisin, N., and Jittiwutikan, J. *Amphetamine withdrawal: I. reliability, validity and factor structure of a measure*. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, 1999. 33(1): 89–93.
3. Grigg, J., Manning, V., Arunogiri, S., et al. *Methamphetamine treatment guidelines: practice guidelines for health professionals*. 2018, Turning Point: Richmond, Victoria.